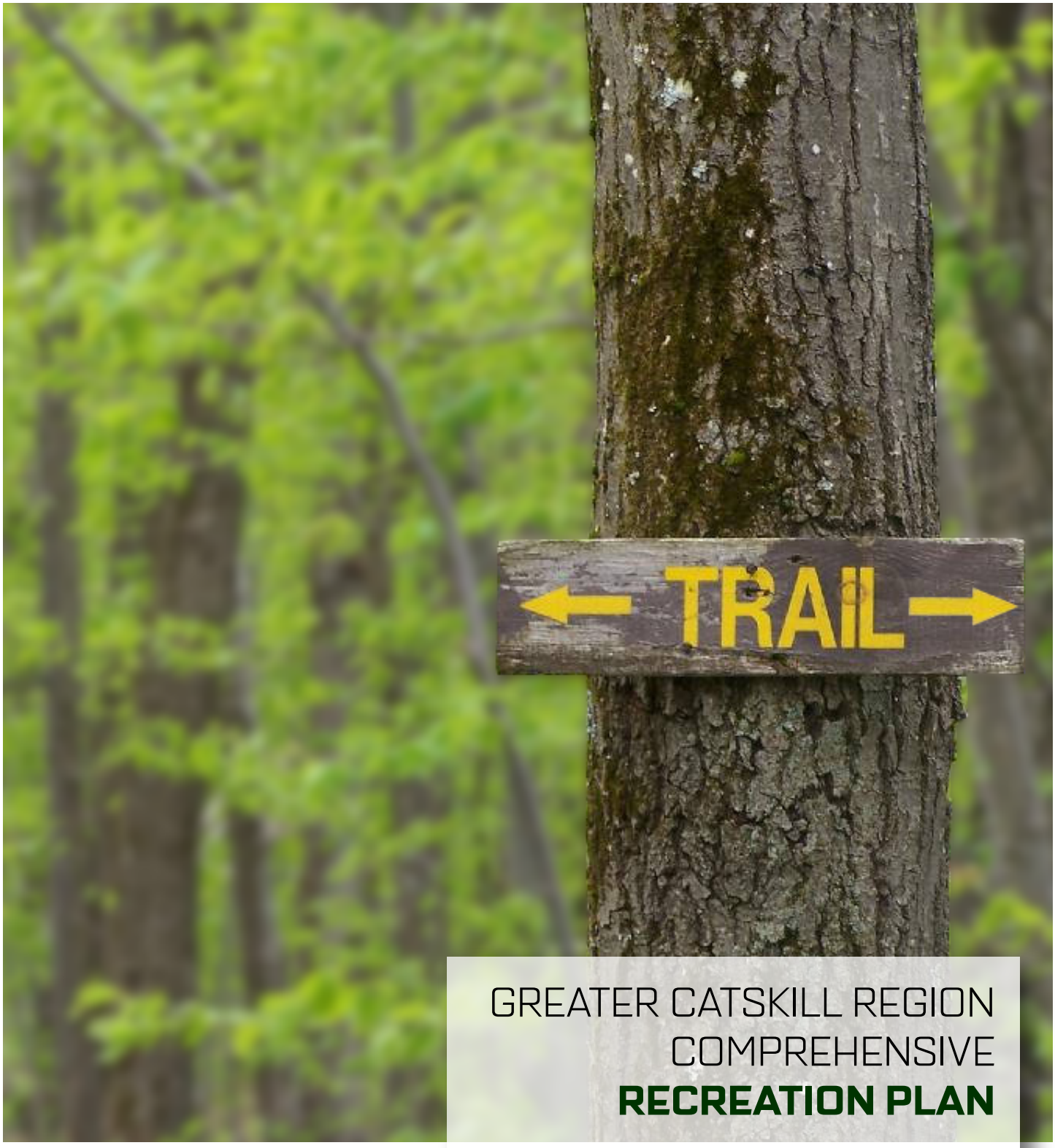

GREATER CATSKILL REGION COMPREHENSIVE **RECREATION PLAN**

July 24, 2020

Catskill Watershed Corporation
CATSKILL CENTER
NYC Environmental Protection
Department of Environmental Conservation

Partners

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

NYSDEC's mission is to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate, and control water, land, and air pollution in order to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social wellbeing.

New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP)

NYC DEP's mission is to enrich the environment and protect public health for all New Yorkers by providing high quality finding water, managing wastewater and stormwater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution.

Catskill Center

Catskill Center's mission is to protect and foster the environmental, cultural, and economic wellbeing of the Catskill region. The Catskills Visitor Center (formally the Catskill Interpretive Center) is a partnership between the Catskill Center and NYSDEC and serves as the first stop for visitors to the region.

Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC)

CWC is a "Local Development Corporation" established to protect water quality in the New York City watershed west of the Hudson River, to preserve and support communities within the watershed, and to strengthen the region's economy.

A special thanks to Senator James L. Seward and Senator George A. Amedore, Jr. who have made this plan possible through a grant from the enacted 2015-2016 New York State Budget, which includes Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000.00) to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under Aid to Localities for Catskill Master Plan Stewardship and Planning.

Prepared with assistance from:

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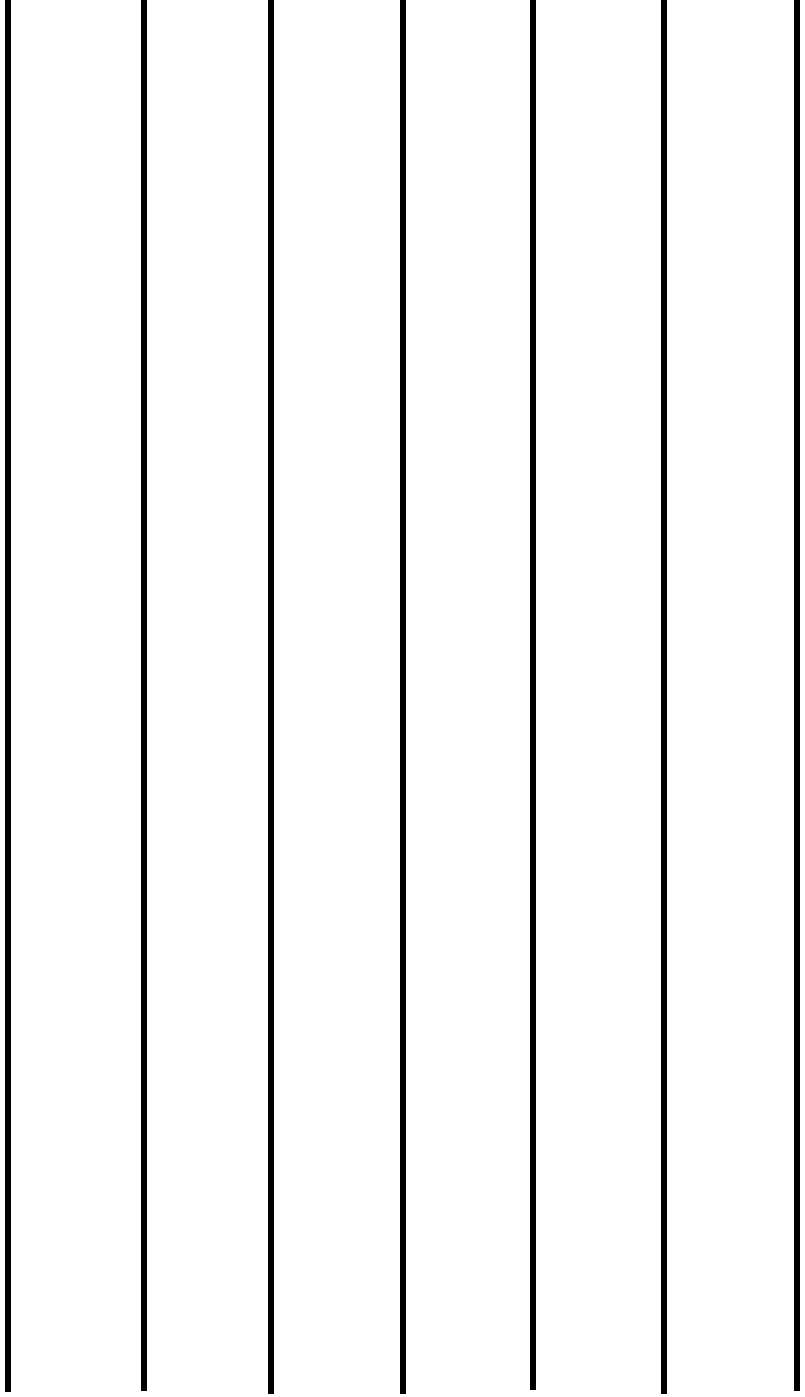

NEXT STEPS | MARKETING | MESSAGING | MOBILITY | WATER | SHELTER | TRAILS | CONTEXT

Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Context Section —

This section contains:

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07 Plan Area

09 Benchmarking

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PURPOSE

The Greater Catskill Region offers outdoor recreation opportunities as diverse as its people and places. Between its peaks, ponds, reservoirs, towns, campgrounds, forests, and wilderness, the region serves as the setting for a wide variety of outdoor recreational pursuits. This abundance of resources helps to create a healthy place to live and work, and the region's close proximity to major cities makes it a desirable visitor destination. Lonely Planet listed the Greater Catskill Region as one of the top ten regions to visit in 2019,[*] and it was one of only two U.S. destinations to make Airbnb's 2019 list of best destinations.[**] The resurging attention paid by visitors to the region presents a strong opportunity to help bolster the regional economy while helping to educate visitors about the region's important role in protecting New York's water, land, and air quality.

The Greater Catskill Region Comprehensive Plan(Plan) is a collaborative effort by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), Catskill Center, and the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC). The Plan serves as a reference document for public officials, staff, advisory committees, partner agencies, and interested parties to help guide future recreation decisions and to help make it easier for a wide range of visitors to enjoy the region's many natural and cultural resources.

The Plan is a culmination of an inventory of regional recreational assets, review of related plans in the four-county planning area, assessment of trends in national outdoor recreation research, and a collection of feedback from regional recreation providers and the public. After a discussion of existing conditions and needs, the Plan is divided into sections based on the following nine goal areas:

1. Connectivity
2. Capacity
3. Accessibility
4. Coordination
5. Branding
6. Mobility
7. Stewardship
8. Dispersion
9. Inclusivity

Each section includes an exploration of issues facing the region, discusses national best practices, and concludes with recommendations. Implementation of recommendations contained in the Plan will require further discussion, public engagement, approval, design, and allocated funding. The recommendations focus on projects and programs that the partner agencies can lead or directly assist in developing and are meant to complement but not supersede individual unit management plans.

[*] Best in Travel 2019, Top Regions. Lonely Planet. <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-travel/regions>
[**] Airbnb Reveals the 19 Destinations to Visit in 2019. Airbnb. <https://press.airbnb.com/airbnb-reveals-the-19-destinations-to-visit-in-2019/>

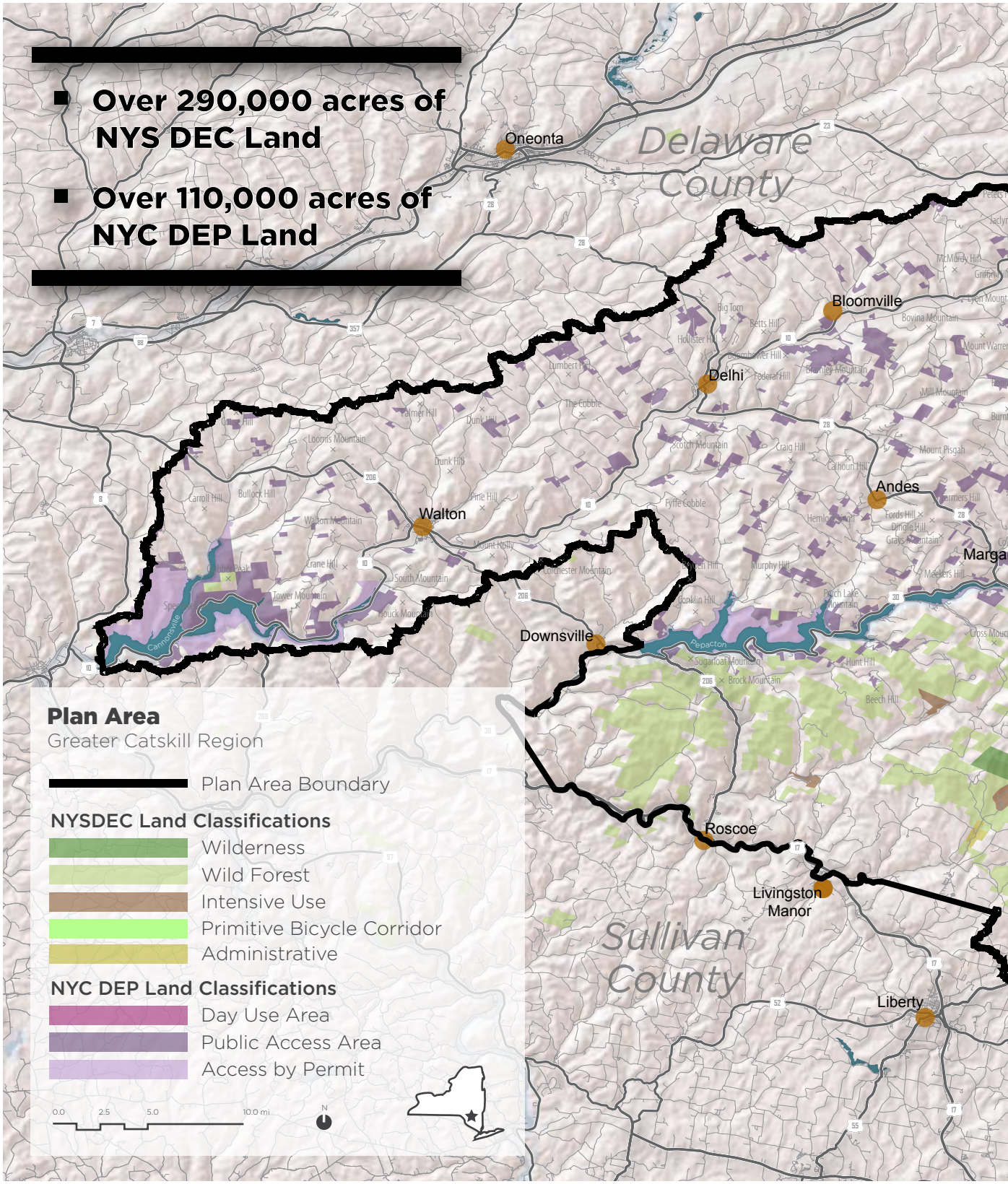
While recommendations are limited to land and facilities owned by the partner agencies or programs that fit within the agencies' missions, development of this Plan provides a framework to help local municipalities, agencies, and groups identify additional means for closing gaps in the region's recreational network. Facilities like trails, swimming areas, boat launches, and campsites can serve as the connective infrastructure that help make enjoying the Greater Catskill Region's natural and cultural resources more sustainable. This Plan looks to build on the region's long history as a travel destination by identifying ways to expand or promote those facilities so that the region remains a place for people to visit for generations to come.

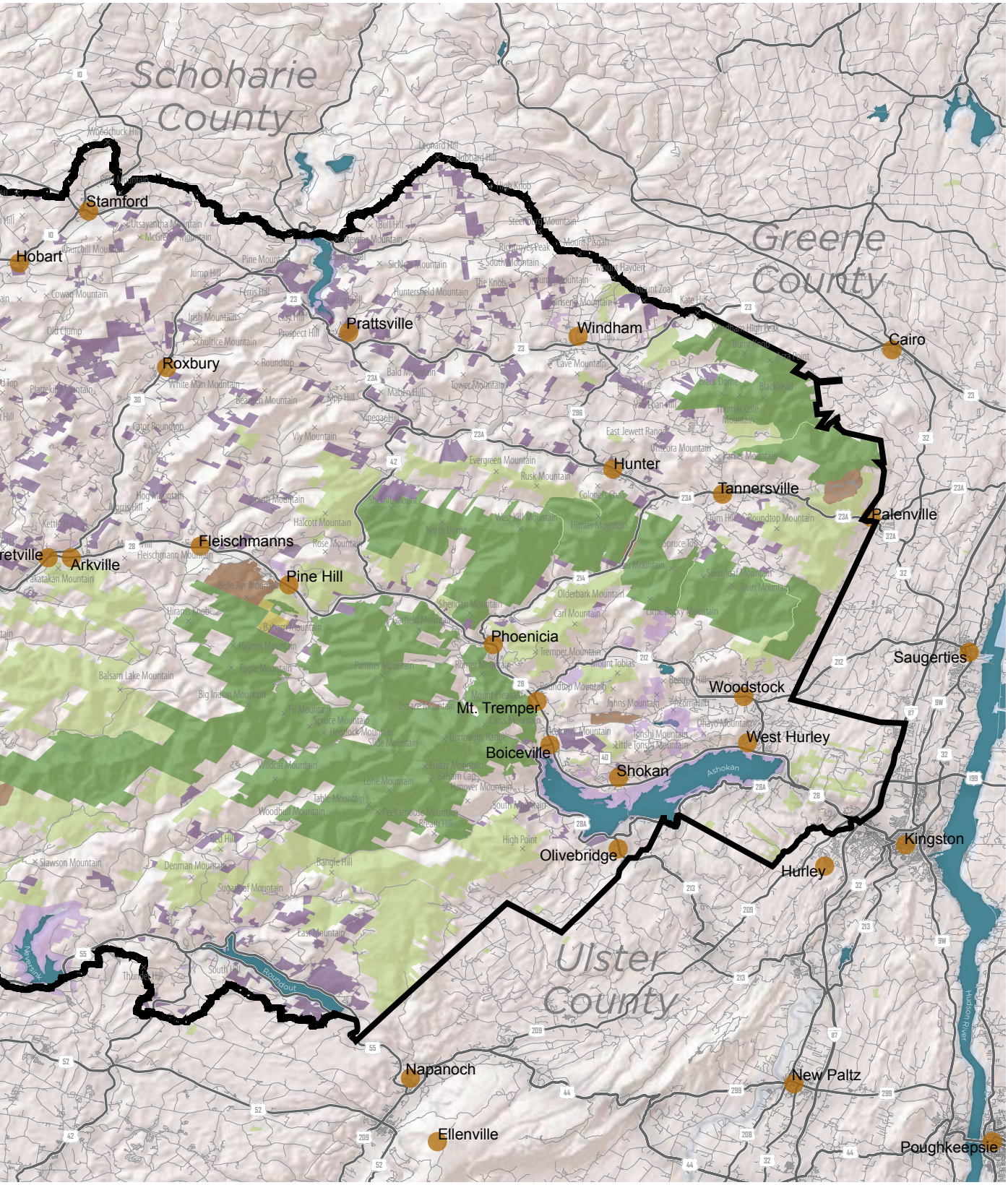
PARTNERSHIP

Much of what has been accomplished with regards to the development of outdoor recreational facilities on public lands is the result of partnerships between land management agencies and stakeholder organizations. This plan recognizes the invaluable contributions these organizations have made and the critical role they will play in future development of the region's potential to accommodate the outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities the region had come to be known for. From long distance trails like the Long Path (NY-NJ Trail Conference) and the Finger Lakes Trail (Finger Lakes Trail Conference) to shorter day hiking opportunities like the Shavertown Trail (Catskill Mountain Club) and the Bluestone Wild Forest Mountain Bike trail system (Fats in the Cats), to Lean-to's like the Bouton Memorial Lean-to (Catskill 3500 Club), the Beaver Meadow Lean-to (Adirondack Mountain Club) and the recently restored Fox Hollow Lean-to (Bruderhof community). Trout Unlimited and other sportsman's groups have greatly contributed to fishing access to the region's waters. Organizations and individuals have taken on Volunteer Stewardship roles to assist in maintenance of a broad range of trails and properties, including the NY-NJ Trail Conference, Catskill Mountain Club, Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Fats in the Cats, The Catskill Center, the Sullivan County Trails Association and the Catskill 3500 Club. We are indebted to the contributions they have made and continue to make. Working together will be the key to success for any of the ideas discussed in this plan.

This Plan serves as a reference document to help guide future recreation decisions in the Greater Catskill Region.

MAP 01: PLAN AREA (SOURCES: TIGER 2018, NYSDEC, NYC DEP)




Schoharie County
Greene County
Ulster County
Stamford
Hobart
Prattsville
Roxbury
Windham
Cairo
Hunter
Tannersville
Palenville
Fleischmanns
Arkville
Pine Hill
Phoenicia
Saugerties
Woodstock
Mt. Tremper
West Hurley
Boiceville
Shokan
Kingston
Olivebridge
Hurley
Napanoch
New Paltz
Ellenville
Poughkeepsie

PLAN AREA

The boundaries of the Plan Area are the Catskill Park and New York City's Catskill/ Delaware Watershed, roughly confined to NYSDEC- and NYC DEP-owned land within Delaware County, Greene County, Sullivan County, and Ulster County. While no hard boundaries exist for the Plan Area, the focus of plan review and subsequent physical infrastructure recommendations center around the Catskill/Delaware Watershed and the Catskill Park boundaries.

State Lands

State lands within the Catskill Park are classified by the *Catskill Park State Land Master Plan*. The three main classifications of NYSDEC's over 290,000 acres of **forest preserve land** are wilderness, wild forest, and intensive use.

The **wilderness** classification (50%) is the most restrictive and seeks to minimize evidence of human impact and to provide maximum opportunities for solitude. Motorized vehicle and bicycle use are prohibited in wilderness areas.

In **wild forest** (48%), higher levels of recreational use are allowed compared to wilderness areas. Activities such as snowmobiling, mountain biking, and group camping may be considered appropriate in wild forest areas as long as they will not adversely impact the natural resources.

Intensive use (2%) areas include land with infrastructure and additional staff that can accommodate larger groups of visitors while maintaining its integrity, such as campgrounds and the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center.

Additional classifications include **administrative** land, where the State provides facilities for a variety of specific purposes that are not primarily designed to accommodate visitors, and **primitive bicycle corridors**, which are a linear areas of Forest Preserve land that is adjacent to or goes through a wilderness area and are otherwise managed as wilderness except that bicycles are permitted.

The unifying theme of this classification system is the protection and preservation of the natural resources of public land. NYSDEC encourages local and visitor use of these lands as along as the resources aren't degraded beyond a limit of acceptable change.

See **Map 01** for the general Plan Area boundaries, NYSDEC-owned (forest preserve) land, and NYC DEP-owned (watershed) land. The missions of both NYSDEC and NYC DEP include the conservation and protection of natural resources; however, NYSDEC's mission also includes the enhancement of the health, safety, social wellbeing, and economic welfare of New Yorkers.

NY City Watershed Lands
NYC DEP allows for low-impact recreation such as hunting, hiking, fishing, boating, and trapping on over 110,000 acres of land. While the City does not construct or maintain hiking trails on its land, the City does provide access improvements such as parking and boat launches. To allow for trail development, NYC DEP has developed an application process to grant permission to other agencies or groups to build trails on its land where appropriate. The three main classifications of **watershed land** are access permit areas, public access areas, and day use areas.

Access Permit Areas are generally located adjacent to a reservoir where a permit for hunting, fishing, and other designated recreational activities is required. They are marked with "Entry by Permit" signs and special access requirements or restrictions may apply.

Public Access Areas are generally located away from reservoirs and allow for recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, fishing, and trapping without an access permit or vehicle tag. They are marked with a "Public Access Area" sign.

Day Use Areas are generally near a reservoir and contain improvements that make them ideal for recreational use such as walking, jogging, and, in some cases, family-friendly bicycling. Access permits and vehicle tags are not required on these lands.

Mountain biking and horseback riding are not allowed on Access Permit Areas and Public Access Areas. Horseback riding is not allowed on DEP watershed lands.

NYSDEC and NYC DEP coordinate to maintain recreational access across their various land classifications, and they actively encourage the identification of links to connect trails across State- and City-owned lands.

BENCHMARKING

Benchmarking is the practice of comparing performance metrics and demographics between similar areas. This section compares and contrasts the Greater Catskill Region to other rural areas in the northeast with a tourism/outdoor recreation based economies. The outdoor recreation industry has helped bolster the Greater Catskill Region's economy. Compared to the Adirondacks (New York), White Mountains (New Hampshire), Green Mountains (Vermont), Berkshires (Massachusetts), and the Poconos (Pennsylvania), the four-county Catskill area is in the middle of the pack in terms of total population and population density. **Table 01** shows that the four-county area has a total population of approximately 350,000 people compared to an average of 217,000 among the five peer regions, and it has a population density of approximately 84 people per square mile compared to an average of 83 people per square mile.

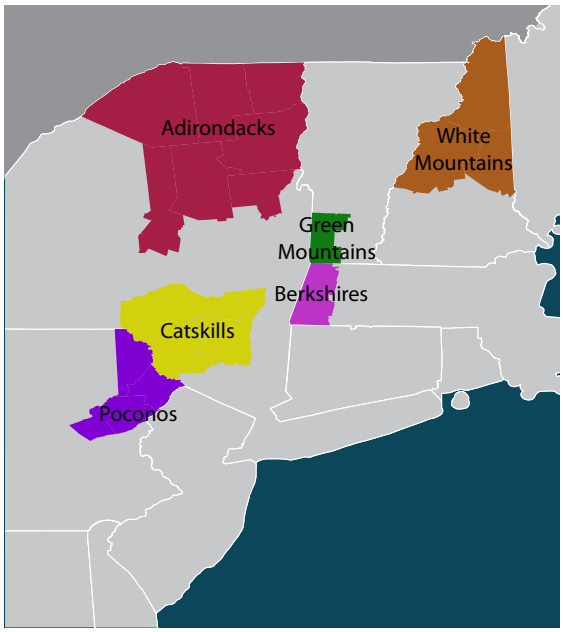


Table 02 shows 38% of Catskill residents have a college degree, compared to an average of 39% of residents in the five peer regions.

Although similar in size and in educational background, residents in the Catskills are **more likely to live in poverty** compared to the average of the five peer regions (14% and 12%, respectively), as shown in **Table 03**.

A large contributing factor to the high poverty rate in the area is the high percentage of residents that are unemployed. **Table 04** shows that 27% of Catskill residents 16 years and older did not work in the past 12 months compared to an average of 23% among the five peer regions. While the percent of Catskill residents with full-time employment (35+ hours per week) was similar to the peer regions (55% and 56%, respectively), the **percent of part-time workers lagged** (18% and 21%, respectively).

[*] Includes all of Delaware County (NY), Greene County (NY), Sullivan County (NY), and Ulster County (NY)
[**] Includes all of Clinton County (NY), Essex County (NY), Franklin County (NY), Hamilton County (NY), Herkimer County (NY), St. Lawrence County (NY), and Warren County (NY)
[***] Includes all of Carroll County (NH), Coos County (NH), and Grafton County (NH)
[†] Includes all of Bennington County (VT)
[††] Includes all of Berkshire County (MA)
[†††] Includes all of Carbon County (PA), Monroe County (PA), Pike County (PA), and Wayne County (PA)

Table 01: Peer Regions, Population Density
(Table B01003: Total Population, American Community Survey, 2013-2017)

	4-County Catskill Area (NY)*	Adirondack Region (NY)**	White Mountain Region (NH) ***	Green Mountain Region (VT)†	Berkshires Region (MA)††	Poconos Region (PA)†††
Population	**349,653**	**413,618**	**168,923**	**36,054**	**127,751**	**338,636**
Population density	84/sq. mi.	37/sq. mi.	38/sq. mi.	53/sq. mi.	138/sq. mi.	150/sq. mi.

Table 02: Peer Regions, Educational Attainment
(Table S1501: Educational Attainment, American Community Survey, 2013-2017)

	4-County Catskill Area (NY)	Adirondack Region (NY)	White Mountain Region (NH)	Green Mountain Region (VT)	Berkshires Region (MA)	Poconos Region (PA)
Population (25+)	251,046	287,209	123,405	25,675	92,897	240,640
Less than 9th grade	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Less than high school	8%	7%	6%	7%	6%	7%
High school diploma	33%	36%	31%	30%	30%	39%
Some college	18%	19%	18%	19%	18%	20%
Associate's degree	11%	11%	9%	8%	9%	9%
Bachelor's degree	15%	12%	19%	21%	18%	14%
Graduate/ professional degree	12%	11%	15%	13%	15%	8%

Table 03: Peer Regions, Economic Status
(Table S2303: Work Status in the Past 12 Months, American Community Survey, 2013-2017)

	4-County Catskill Area (NY)	Adirondack Region (NY)	White Mountain Region (NH)	Green Mountain Region (VT)	Berkshires Region (MA)	Poconos Region (PA)
Households	133,545	161,062	69,938	15,280	55,063	124,085
Per capita income	$30,009	$26,450	$33,516	$31,313	$33,245	$27,422
Below Federal poverty level	14%	15%	11%	13%	11%	11%

Table 04: Peer Regions, Employment Status
(Table S2303: Work Status in the Past 12 Months, American Community Survey, 2013-2017)

	4-County Catskill Area (NY)	Adirondack Region (NY)	White Mountain Region (NH)	Green Mountain Region (VT)	Berkshires Region (MA)	Poconos Region (PA)
Employment population (16+)	226,802	271,034	108,690	22,146	80,982	219,708
Work 35+ hours/ week	55%	54%	57%	58%	56%	55%
Work 15-34 hours/week	14%	14%	18%	16%	17%	15%
Work 1-14 hours/ week	4%	4%	6%	6%	7%	3%
Did not work	27%	28%	19%	21%	20%	27%

As shown in **Table 05** the four-county area lost over 6,800 total jobs between 2005 and 2015 (-6% decline). The largest losses took place in the educational services (approximately -3,800 jobs), public administration (approximately -2,400 jobs), manufacturing (approximately -1,800 jobs), and retail trade (approximately -1,000 jobs) sectors.

Among the 20 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industry sectors tracked by the US Census Bureau, only nine sectors in the four-county area showed job growth between 2005 and 2015. Included within that list, the "**arts, entertainment, and recreation**" sector grew by approximately 5% over the ten-year period (2,087 jobs to 2,188 jobs).[*] While this sector was one of the few to show growth in the four-county area (see **Table 06**), the growth was relatively small compared to the peer regions with available data. Over the same time period, the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector grew 46% in the Adirondack region (2,065 jobs to 3,794 jobs), 16% in the Green Mountain region (351 jobs to 419 jobs), and 27% in the Poconos (2,224 jobs to 3,046 jobs).

To place that in context, the Adirondack region saw similar declines in educational service (approximately -2,700 jobs), manufacturing (approximately -5,400 jobs), and retail trade (approximately -1,000 jobs), but used a near doubling of the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector to buoy employment following the 2007 recession in the United States.[**]

The tourism industry in general has become highly important for New York's economy. According to a 2015 report from Tourism Economics, **if the jobs sustained by visitors were eliminated, the 2015 overall unemployment rate would jump from 5% to 13% statewide**. Both the Adirondacks and the Catskills represent approximately 2% each of New York's visitor spending, helping to sustain 19% and 15% of the regional economies, respectively. The authors of the 2015 report also found that if tourism-generated state and local taxes disappeared, the average household in the Adirondacks would have to pay an additional $1,509 per year to maintain the same level of government revenue,[***] and the average household in the Catskills would have to pay an additional $1,192 per year.[†]

[*] The "arts, entertainment, and recreation" sector encompasses (1) live performances/events, (2) establishments that preserve and exhibit sites of historical, cultural, or educational interest, and (3) establishments that enable participation in recreational and leisure-time activities.

[**] The number of jobs within the arts, entertainment, and recreation sector in the White Mountains region decreased 17% between 2005 and 2015. U.S. Census Bureau. 2019. LEHD Origin-Destination Employment (2002-2015). Washington, DC.

[***] The Economic Impact of Tourism in New York: Adirondack Focus (2015). Tourism Economics.

[†] The Economic Impact of Tourism in New York: Catskills Focus (2017). Tourism Economics.

[††] In New York, consumer spending on snow sports and wildlife watching ($6.7 billion) generates more than the entire economic impact of the state's film industry ($6.5 billion). Spending by state residents represents 78% of outdoor recreation spending in New York, with approximately 30% of outdoor recreation trips in New York taking place within 30 minutes of the participant's home. New York (2017). Outdoor Industry Association.

[†††] Residents of New York's 19th Congressional district spent $1.6 billion on outdoor recreation each year, helping to support at least 23 outdoor companies. New York 19th Congressional District. Outdoor Industry Association.

[‡] Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report (2017). Outdoor Foundation.

[‡‡] New York 19th Congressional District. Outdoor Industry Association.

[‡‡‡] National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (2016). U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

[¥] Outdoor Participation Report (2017). Outdoor Foundation.

[¥¥] New York 19th Congressional District. Outdoor Industry Association.

[¥¥¥] Zarnoch, et al. Outdoor Recreation Data, Trends, and Projects – Planning for the Future. (2011). <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/pdf/2011NARRP.pdf>

Table 05: Peer Regions, Net Change in Jobs
(U.S. Census Bureau. 2019. LEHD Origin-Destination Employment, 2005-2015. Washington, DC.)

	4-County Catskill Area (NY)	Adirondack Region (NY)	White Mountain Region (NH)	Green Mountain Region (VT)	Berkshires Region (MA)[Φ]	Poconos Region (PA)
Number of jobs (2015)	109,397	146,492	81,161	16,861	-	87,299
Number of jobs (2005)	116,268	148,853	81,109	17,754	-	85,083
Net change	-6,871	-2,361	52	-893	-	2,216
Percent change	-6%	-2%	0%	-5%	-	3%

[Φ] 2005 jobs data not available for Berkshire County (MA)

Table 06: Four-County Area, Employment by Sector
(U.S. Census Bureau. 2019. LEHD Origin-Destination Employment, 2002-2015. Washington, DC.)

4-County Catskill Area	Number of jobs (2015)	Percent of jobs (2015)	Number of jobs (2005)	Percent of jobs (2005)	Net change	Percent change
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,256	1.1%	1,250	1.1%	+6	0.5%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	363	0.3%	316	0.3%	+47	14.9%
Utilities	391	0.4%	139	0.1%	+252	181.3%
Construction	4,190	3.8%	4,846	4.2%	-656	-13.5%
Manufacturing	8,877	8.1%	10,634	9.1%	-1,757	-16.5%
Wholesale Trade	3,444	3.1%	3,122	2.7%	+322	10.3%
Retail Trade	13,984	12.8%	14,961	12.9%	-977	-6.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	3,481	3.2%	2,927	2.5%	554	18.9%
Information	1,830	1.7%	1,940	1.7%	-110	-5.7%
Finance and Insurance	2,339	2.1%	3,262	2.8%	-923	-28.3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,542	1.4%	1,279	1.1%	+263	20.6%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,620	2.4%	2,815	2.4%	-195	-6.9%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	818	0.7%	1,000	0.9%	-182	-18.2%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	3,255	3.0%	3,675	3.2%	-420	-11.4%
Educational Services	14,129	12.9%	17,901	15.4%	-3,772	-21.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	18,179	16.6%	15,201	13.1%	2,978	19.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,188	2.0%	2,087	1.8%	+101	4.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	10,170	9.3%	10,247	8.8%	-77	-0.8%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	4,116	3.8%	4,049	3.5%	+67	1.7%
Public Administration	12,225	11.2%	14,617	12.6%	-2,392	-16.4%
Total	**109,397**	**100.0%**	**116,268**	**100.0%**	**-6,871**	**-**

Because of the increased importance of the tourism industry on the Plan Area, identifying and being responsive to industry trends can help the Greater Catskill Region to continue to foster this critical sector of its economy.[††, †††]

As shown in **Table 07**, all age groups surveyed by the Outdoor Foundation expressed an interest in trying **camping**, with the activity ranking first or second among each age category.[‡]

Youths and younger adults (13 to 44) also expressed interest in trying swimming, bicycling, and hiking or backpacking.[‡‡] In addition, cross-over activities such as kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, trail running, and off-road triathlons have experienced growth in national participation rates.[¥¥¥] These national interests are well-aligned to Catskill resident interest who report watersports, camping, and off-roading as their favorite activities.[‡‡]

Among older adults, **bird/wildlife viewing** was of particular recreational interest.[‡] This is consistent with national growth in participation rates for bird/wildlife watching,[‡‡‡] gathering berries/mushrooms, and wildflower/tree viewing.[¥¥¥]

Activities that saw declines in participation include **fishing** (42% participation rate to 38%) and **hunting** (15% participation rate to 11%).[‡‡‡] Both youths (younger than 18) and older adults (45 and older) expressed interest in fishing; however, cost of equipment may be a barrier to participation in the activity.[¥]

While the average New Yorker is more likely to participate in **winter sports**,[¥¥] a national trend away from downhill skiing may require the region to continue to develop lower cost winter activities to help meet changing demand.[¥¥¥]

The peer regions are looking to capitalize on these trends and have developed outdoor recreation plans to help guide development of their recreation industries. In 2014, NYSDEC and the New York Department of State published *Adirondack Park Recreation Strategies* which identified a list of approaches the region would use to help grow recreational opportunities. Strategies included:

- Establishing recreational linkages between communities
- Create a system of destination trails
- Implement a cohesive design standard for signage
- Utilize targeted investments to ensure each "recreation hub" (a cluster of communities that can share infrastructure and amenities) has a complete set of amenities to facilitate visitor-driven economic activity
- Plan and implement a diverse and dispersed set of managed recreation activities, including races, challenges, athletic events, and tournaments to support the region's hospitality industry
- Create an online asset management system to coordinate stewardship efforts
- Develop a comprehensive recreational asset inventory and allow other agencies, non-profits, and community groups to access the inventory through a web portal

Table 07: Peer Regions, Net Change in Jobs
(Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report (2017). Outdoor Foundation.

Rank	Ages 13-17 (interest rate)	Ages 18-24 (interest rate)	Ages 25-34 (interest rate)	Ages 35-44 (interest rate)	Ages 45+ (interest rate)
1.	Camping (13%)	Camping (18%)	Swimming (16%)	Camping (14%)	Camping (11%)
2.	Swimming (10%)	Bicycling (16%)	Camping (15%)	Bicycling (13%)	Birdwatching/ Wildlife viewing (11%)
3.	Running/Jogging (9%)	Backpacking (14%)	Bicycling (13%)	Swimming (13%)	Fishing (10%)
4.	Fishing (9%)	Martial arts (14%)	Running/Jogging (11%)	Hiking (11%)	Bicycling (10%)
5.	Bicycling (9%)	Climbing (12%)	Hiking (11%)	Weight lifting (10%)	Swimming (10%)

Monroe County in the Poconos developed an updated *Open Space, Greenway, & Recreation Plan* in 2014. As part of the planning process, the authors reviewed recreation and open space plans in adjacent counties, and they developed the following recommendations:

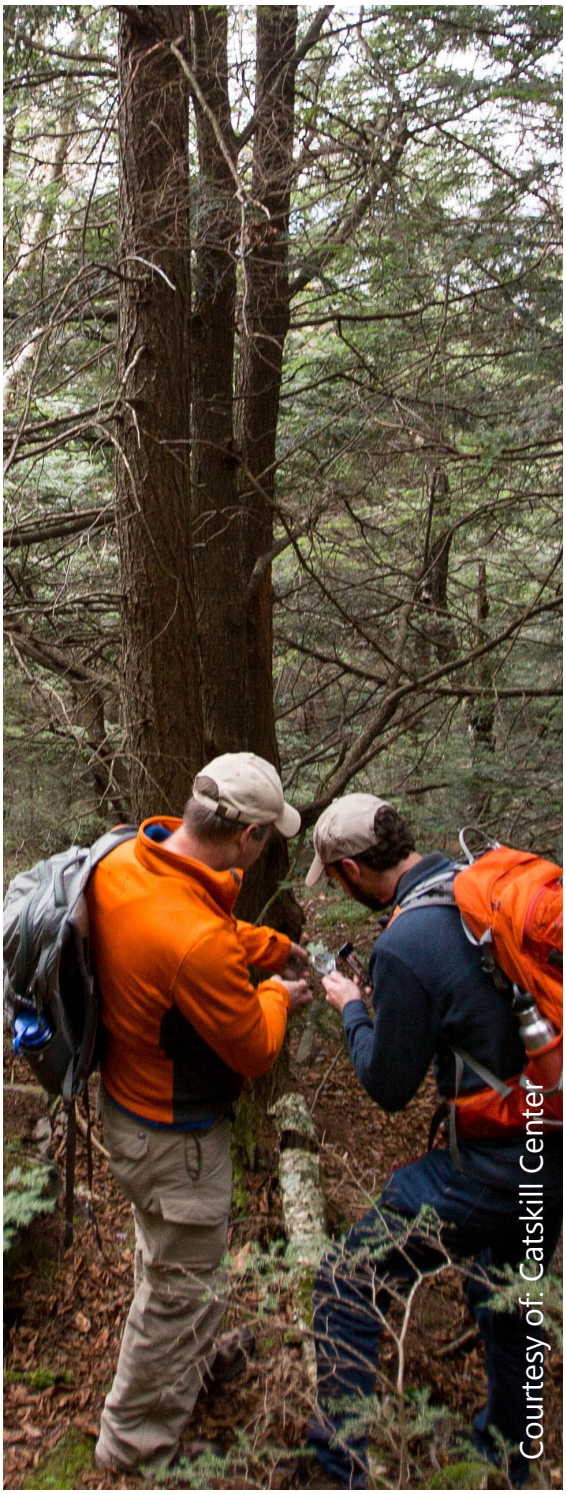
- Dedicate a percentage of the County Hotel Tax revenue to the Recreation Commissions
- Focus on the study and development of a central "spine" rail-trail and then create linkages to neighboring rail-trails
- Focus resources at three major gateway locations
- Implement ADA accessibility where possible
- Create and implement a county-specific branding system that includes a unified signage system and a master interpretive plan
- Work with partners to actively promote environmental accomplishments within the Poconos

Similarly, New Hampshire's *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (2019-2023) provides guidance for local communities, such as the White Mountains, to enhance the outdoor experience for residents and visitors while sustaining the state's economic vitality and natural resources. Strategies discussed in the plan included:

- Provide additional focus on underserved user groups
- Promote a consistent stewardship and conservation message through community volunteers
- Track economic outcomes of recreation development
- Develop interpretive programming to encourage preservation of cultural and natural resources
- Build more and better-connected trails, including hiking, snowmobile, and off-road vehicle trails
- Expand on the State's "LIVE FREE" brand to promote the benefits of outdoor recreation and promote a welcoming business culture
- Be responsive to multigenerational recreation needs

DOCUMENT REVIEW

DEC undertakes Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for forest preserve lands in the Catskill Park which contain detailed proposals for the use, management, and other policies to be carried out within individual management units. UMPs determine the locations of new trails, parking lots, or structures such as lean-tos, bridges, and information boards. In addition, UMPs describe the historical and natural resources of the unit and any outstanding issues or problems. Completed UMPs within the general Plan Area were reviewed, as well as the *Catskill Park State Land Master Plan* (2008 + 2013 amendment), which provides overarching policy and guidelines for all the lands in the forest preserve. Recommendations within this Plan that take place on this managed land will require future integration into the UMPs prior to implementation.

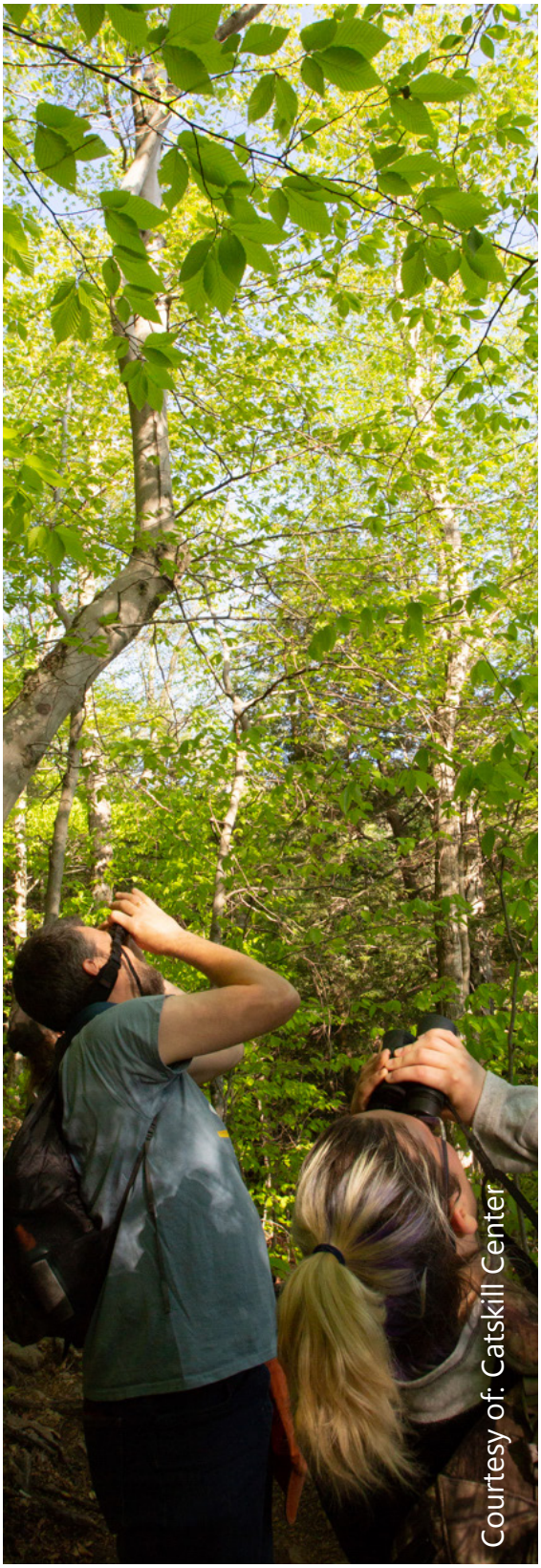


Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Unit Management Plans

- Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1987)
- Kaaterskill Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1987)
- Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1988)
- Dry Brook Ridge Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1988)
- Willowemoc-Longpond Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1991)
- Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan (1992)
- Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area Unit Management (1993)
- Crystal Lake Wild Forest Preserve Detached Parcel Unit Management Plan Update (1993)
- Phoenicia-Mount Tobias Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1994)
- Windham High Peak Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1994)
- Hunter Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1995)
- Balsam Lake Mountain Unit Management Plan (1996)
- Sundown Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1996)
- Bluestone Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1997)
- Slide Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan (1998)
- Overlook Mountain Wild Forest Management Plan (1999)
- Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (2001)
- Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (2005)
- Neversink River Unique Area (1997 + 2013 Amendment)
- Bear Spring Mountain Public Campground Unit Management Plan (2015)
- Mongaup Pond Public Campground Unit Management Plan (2015)
- Kenneth L. Wilson Public Campground Unit Management Plan (2016)
- Windham-Blackhead Range Wilderness Presentation (2016)
- Devils Tombstone Unit Management Plan (2018)
- Gooseberry Creek Corridor Local Waterfront Revitalization Strategy & Implementation Plan (2018)
- North/South Lake Public Campground Draft Unit Management Plan Amendment (2018)
- Sundown Wild Forest/Vernooy Kill State Forest UMP Revision (2019)

In addition to the UMPs, 31 other plans and studies were reviewed. In particular, this Plan builds on the 1999 Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan, which looked to identify deficiencies that hampered public use and delivery of information about the forest preserve and recommended ways to fill those gaps in a manner consistent with the 2008 Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and Article XIV of the New York State Constitution. Similarly, recommendations in this Plan seek to complement while not replicating those previously completed plans and studies.


Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Other Plans & Studies

- New York State Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan (1999)
- Catskill Park Guidelines for Highway Facilities within the Catskill Park (1999)
- An Enhancement Concept for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (2002)
- Ulster & Delaware Railroad Corridor Trail Feasibility Study (2006)
- Greene County Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (2007)
- Saugerties Area Mobility Study (2007)
- Ulster County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (2008)
- Mountaintop Community Recreation, Cultural Resources and Scenic Quality Strategy (2009)
- Rules for the Recreational Use of Water Supply Lands and Water (2019)
- East Branch Delaware River Enhanced Recreation Plan (2010-2016)
- Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway Proposed Corridor Management Plan (2011)
- Wallkill Valley Rail Trail & Hudson Valley Rail Trail Link Feasibility Study (2011)
- Economic Valuation Study for Public Lands in the Central Catskills (2012)
- Ulster County Main Streets Strategic Toolbox (2012)
- Revitalizing the Esopus/Delaware Region of the Central Catskills (2013)
- Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (2014)
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2019)
- Sullivan County Coordinated Transportation Services Plan (2015)
- Ulster County Rail Trail Project – Ashokan Reservoir Section Feasibility Study (2015)
- U&D Railroad Highest and Best Use Recommendations (2015)
- U&D Corridor Adopted Rail and Trail Use Policy Resolution No. 488 (2015)
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection Filtration Avoidance Annual Report (2018)
- Shared-use Path Construction Project: Hudson Valley Rail Trail West Phase 4 (2016)
- Ulster County Midtown Linear Park (2016)
- Ulster County Transit Systems Integration Plan (2017)
- Catskill Interpretive Center Final Concepts (2017)
- Signage and Wayfinding Recommendations from Select Catskill Region Plans (2018)
- Midtown Linear Park Draft Design Report (2019)
- O&W Trail through Sullivan County Feasibility Study project website (undated)
- Sullivan 2020 Volume II: The Toolbox (undated)
- Upper Delaware River: Making the Connections (undated)

Within the reviewed plans and studies, several previously proposed regional projects were identified as having large-scale public support. Although these projects may not be a focus of this Plan's recommendations because they already have momentum behind them or because the partnering agencies may not be able to directly contribute to them, they are listed below to acknowledge their importance and help identify potential future recreational connections to them.

Kaaterskill Rail Trail – Proposed trail that would connect Kaaterskill Falls to Haines Falls, Tannersville, and Hunter along the former Ulster & Delaware (U&D) rail corridor. Phase 1 opened in 2013 and it connects the Mountain Top Historical Society in Haines Falls to the Laurel House site. Phase 2 between Haines Falls and North-South Lake was recently completed, and Phase 3 is in progress and will connect the Mountain Top Historical Society to the Huckleberry Multi-use Trail in Tannersville.

- **Phase 4**: Will extend west from Tannersville along the U&D rail corridor and would require a long pedestrian bridge over Schoharie Creek (an alternative along Route 214 and Route 23A has also been identified)
- **Phase 5**: Will connect from Route 214 to Dolan's Lake in Hunter along the Hunter Branch of the U&D rail corridor

The Windham Multi-use Path – Proposed trail that would connect Windham, Hensonville, and Maplecrest to the Batavia Kill. The path is intended to be constructed over eight phases. The first phase was completed in 2013 and comprises a 1.5-mile loop in Windham. The second phase was completed in 2015 and connected South Street and Route 296 in Windham to the existing loop. Most of this trail segment crosses watershed land. NYC DEP and the Town of Windham have been discussing a trail design that is appropriate for watersdhed land which won't involve a hardened trail surface for bike use.

- **Phase 3**: Connect Hensonville Center to Maplecrest along a 2.4-mile segment that parallels the Batavia Kill and includes a pedestrian bridge over a stream

Catskill Mountain Rail Trail – An in-progress trail construction project that would extend the Ashokan Rail Trail to Highmount, Phoenicia, Boiceville, West Hurley and Kingston.

- **West Segment**: Connect Highmount to Phoenicia along the U&D rail corridor
- **Central Segment**: Connect Phoenicia to existing segment in Boiceville
- **East Segment**: Connect existing segment in West Hurley to Kingston

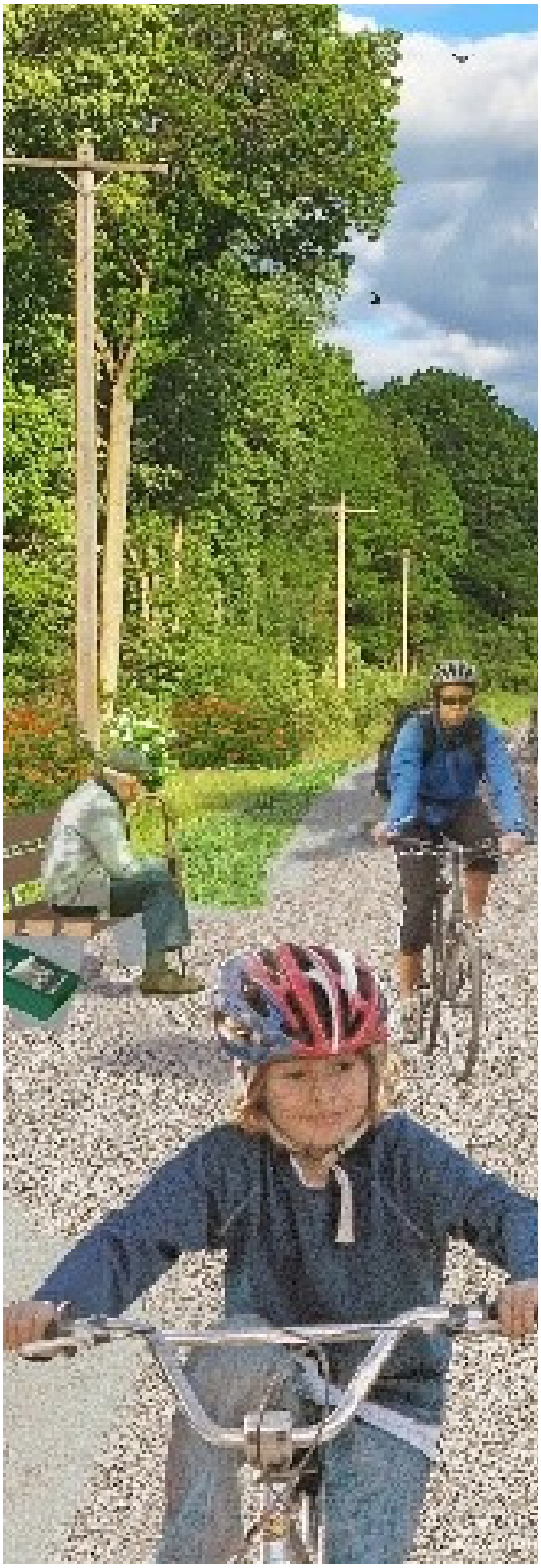
Cairo Main Street Multi-modal Pathway – Proposed multi-modal path connecting Cairo's central business district to a newer development at the east end of the hamlet. The project is part of the hamlet's Main Street revitalization effort and includes a 0.5-mile sidewalk/bicycle path on Route 23B and several pocket parks.

Water Discovery Center - Proposed state-of-the-art education center in the CWC's new headquarters in Arkville that will provide a living classroom and interactive exhibits to explore the intricacies of water management. In addition, NYC DEP will be located at this facility to help foster their partnership with CWC and educational opportunities such as the interpretive walking trails that are proposed on the 34-acre property.

Catskill Park Wayfinding Sign Project – Ongoing purchase of informational/ directional signs, placards with the Catskill Park logo, and support structures for the purpose of implementing a recreational wayfinding sign system through the Catskill Park.

Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway Gateway Signage Project – Ongoing purchase of informational kiosks to be placed along Route 23A and Route 214 through Hunter, Tannersville, Palenville, and Lanesville.

Empire State Trail – Proposed vision for a 750-mile continuous trail from New York City to Albany, and Buffalo, with 400 miles of disconnected segments already in place. The project is backed by $200 million in State funding and will be completed in 2020. The closest opportunity for a connection to the Plan Area is in Kingston.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

To capture feedback from the public on local recreational needs and opportunities, the process for this Plan included four forms of community engagement:

- Steering committee
- Project website
- Online survey
- Public Meetings

Steering Committee

Throughout the planning process, an interdisciplinary project team of NYSDEC, NYC DEP, Catskill Center, and CWC staff met regularly to provide and review content for the Plan.

Project Website

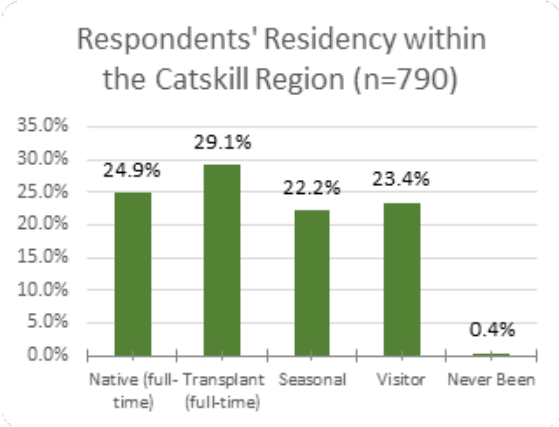
To serve as central portal for all publicly-accessible project materials, a project website was created (CatskillRecPlan.com). The project website provided background information on the planning process, notification of upcoming events, resource documents, contact information for reaching the project team, and a link to an online survey.

Online Survey

An online survey through Survey Monkey was made available for public comment between October 19, 2017 and July 13, 2018. The survey was advertised on the project website and through the project partner webpages and social media accounts. The 21-question survey received 793 responses, with an average completion length of 10 minutes and a 100% survey completion rate.

While the online survey was open to any interested party and did not constitute a statistically valid survey sample, the responses provided insight into how a subset of the regional population and visitors to the region feel about existing recreational opportunities. Among the nearly 800 survey respondents, one-quarter were full-time residents who are **native to the region** (25%), about one-quarter were full-time residents who have **moved from outside the region** (29%), about one-quarter were **seasonal** residents (22%), and about one-quarter **do not live in the region** full or part time (23%). Less than 1.0% of the survey respondents indicated that they had not been to the Catskill region.

See **Appendix A** for the survey responses and **Appendix B** for a more detailed description of what population subsegments responded to the survey.



Initial Stakeholder Meetings

The first set of targeted outreach meetings were held in Arkville, Delhi, Kingston, and Monticello between December 12, 2017 and December 13, 2017. The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the project and solicit feedback on recreational issues in the region.

Public Workshops

Public workshops were held between June 11, 2018 and June 12, 2018 in Andes, Cairo, Mt. Tremper, and Livingston Manor. A morning and afternoon session were held in each location, and the purpose of the workshops was to discuss public access needs to existing recreation facilities, the need for new facilities, connecting natural and cultural opportunities with economic opportunities, and building a regional foundation for sustainable economic development. While the initial focus of the public meetings was on physical facilities within the Plan Area, much of feedback received also touched on programs and policy and their relationship to economic development.

Interviews

In August 2018, 11 interviews were conducted of partner agency staff to discuss ongoing projects and programs, limitations, and desired plan outcomes. Additional interviews of residents, public officials, city and county staff, recreation-based not-for-profit staff, and other outdoor recreational providers were conducted throughout the life of the project.

Additional Stakeholder Meetings

A second set of targeted outreach meetings were held in Catskill, Liberty, Margaretville, Shokan, and Tannersville between October 17, 2018 and November 7, 2018. The purpose of these targeted stakeholder meetings was to share best practices from around the country and to solicit feedback on their potential application to the Greater Catskill Region.

See **Appendix C** for more detailed feedback from public workshops and targeted stakeholder meetings.

BALANCE

Many factors influence where people choose to live and where companies choose to locate, but quality-of-life factors, such as access to amenities, have become increasingly important. *Area Development Magazine* conducted their annual survey of corporate executives and found 76% identified quality-of-life factors as "important" or "very important" in their decision of where to locate their company (an increase from 55% in 2005).[*] The importance of quality-of-life amenities was especially pronounced among companies looking to relocate and among small/medium-sized,family-owned,and recreation-based companies. These companies often look to their location to help reflect their corporate culture and attract workers.[**]

However, as the pressure increases to address economic issues by encouraging new residents, businesses, and visitors to the region, so too does the risk of potentially degrading the experience that attracted people to the region in the first place. Increased recreational use can reduce levels of vegetation, lead to soil erosion, threaten water sources,[***] contribute to the spread of invasive species, and intrude on a place's ability to provide solitude. Strategies to help reduce site-specific vulnerabilities include a focus on stewardship and educational programming, incorporation of trail design best practices,[‡] adherence to individual NYSDEC Unit Management Plans, and continual monitoring and adjustments.[†,††,†††]

[] Gambale, G. 30th Annual Survey of Corporate Executive: Cautious Optimism Reflected (2016). Area Development.

[**] In a 2010 survey of Deschutes County, Oregon business owners, Headwaters Economics found that most of the company leaders they spoke with indicated they located their firms in central Oregon because they like it as a place. Specifically, the business leaders mentioned the climate and access to trails, rivers, and public lands. Many of the business owners mentioned that they first discovered the region as visitors. Promoting Parks and Recreation's Role in Economic Development (2018). National Recreation and Park Association.

[***] Cole, DN. Minimizing Conflict between Recreation and Nature Conservation (1993). Ecology of Greenways: Design and Function of Linear Conservation Areas. <https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_1993_cole_d001.pdf>

[†] Gotra, S.H.O. and K.E. Boyle. Sustainable Trail Management, Definitions and a Management Model. Exploring the Nature of Management. Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitor Flows in Recreational and Protected Areas, University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil, Switzerland. 2006.

[††] Hockett, K.S., Marion, J.L. and Y.F. Leung. The efficacy of Combined Educational and Site Management Actions in Reducing Off-trail Hiking in an Urban-Proximate Protected Area. Journal of Environmental Management. 2017. 203(1): 17-28.

[†††] Schwartz, F., Taff, B.D., Lawhon, B. and D. VanderWoude. Mitigating Undesignated Trail Use: The Efficacy of Messaging and Direct Site Management Actions in an Urban-Proximate Open Space Context. Environmental Management. 2018.

[‡]NYC DEP's primary role of protecting the New York City water supply places limitations on the agencies ability to expand recreational opportunities.

Courtesy of: Catskill Center

GOALS

Based on feedback from recreation providers and the public, the following nine goals were identified:

Goal 1: Connectivity

Increase connectivity between places, existing facilities, and activities

Develop a year-round, interconnected network of towns, campgrounds, and trail access points through short trail extensions, loops, and improved crossings to encourage greater use of the region's economic centers.

Goal 2: Capacity

Build the region's tourism capacity through new outdoor recreational opportunities

Develop new, larger-scale recreation opportunities, support innovating or trending recreational activities that encourage engagement with the region's variety of natural resources, and ensure adequate parking and restroom facilities support these opportunities and activities.

Goal 3: Accessibility

Improve accessibility for all ages and abilities

Emphasize the development of infrastructure, activities, and policies that support access to recreation among people with a wide range of physical capabilities.

Goal 4: Coordination

Boost regional coordination and information sharing

Continue to emphasize the need for regional coordination in planning and data sharing by building on existing efforts from the Catskill Visitor Center to serve as a centralized resource for information on recreation facilities, tourism-related events, and outdoor education and safety information.

Goal 5: Branding

Develop a recognizable brand for the region

Reinforce the region's unique identity by building upon the Catskill Visitor Center's identifiable brand and developing a standard system for wayfinding and gateways.

Goal 6: Mobility

Identify more multimodal transportation options

Link major regional destinations to popular trail and recreation access points through a system of motor vehicle resources, on-road bicycle routes, and transit services.

Goal 7: Stewardship

Promote a unified stewardship message

Protect the region's watersheds and other natural resources by engaging visitors in interactive educational experiences and collectively endorsing a single message on environmental protection.

Goal 8: Dispersion

Encourage a more equitable distribution of visitors

Encourage a greater distribution of visitors throughout the region to decrease negative environmental impacts on existing high-trafficked sites and to promote the economic sustainability of more remote areas.

Goal 9: Inclusivity

Conduct inclusive outreach

Encourage active participation of a wide range of stakeholders and user groups in the planning and design of proposed recreational projects.

Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Trails Section —

This section contains:

29 Trail Towns

35 Trail Town Kiosks

41 Short-distance Trails

57 Long-distance Trails

71 Accessible Trails

81 Mt. Biking Trails

87 Trail Ratings

Trail Towns

GAPS

To take full economic advantage of outdoor recreational facilities requires a detailed knowledge of trail users, understanding their needs, and providing services that can help complete an extended hiking trip. The majority of surveyed visitors (75%) to the Greater Catskill Region stay for two days or less per visit. Lengthening a visitors' trip has been shown to increase the amount of money they spend in the region.[1] Recent research suggests that some of the most influential factors on the length of a visitor's trip are activities that allow for skill acquisition, physical activities, a diverse set of culturally immersive activities,[2] and shopping.[3,4] Connecting outdoor recreation skills and exercise provided by trail networks with the cultural and economic resources provided by towns may encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more per trip in the Greater Catskill Region.

Trail users can be broadly divided into three categories:[5]

- **Shoestring Hikers** - Younger hikers that tend to travel 10 to 15 miles per day, prefer low-cost camping options, and spend no more than $30 per day (mostly on food and drink). They desire camping near towns, low-cost access to showers, and visiting local breweries.
- **Economy Hikers** - Not specific to any age and tend to hike 5 to 12 miles per day, base their lodging on weather conditions and the attractiveness of the nearby town, and spend approximately $50 per day. They desire incentives for tourist attractions, budget accommodations, and local restaurants.
- **Comfort Hikers** - Tend to be highly educated, older adults with discretionary income. They typically hike less than 10 miles per day and stay at higher-end accommodations, such as hotels and bed and breakfasts. They spend on average $100 per day and prioritize historic and cultural amenities that contribute to a sense of place.

The table on the following page shows gaps in services at towns in the Plan Area and how some of those shortcomings can be overcome by grouping multiple towns together.

[1] *Sirakaya-Turk, E, et al. Research Methods for Leisure, Recreation, and Tourism. 2nd Edition. 2017. 313.*
[2] *Adongo, CA, Badu-Baiden, F., and KAA Boakye. The tourism experience-led length of stay hypothesis. Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. 2017. 18: 65-74. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213078017300105?via%3Dihub>*
[3] *Greiner, R, Stoeckl, N, and C Mayocchi. Improving benefits from tourism to communities in Australia's tropical savannas. <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.538.1968&rep=rep1&type=pdf>*
[4] *Alen, E., Nicolau, JL, Losada, N., and T. Dominguez. Determinant Factors of Senior Tourists' Length of Stay. 2014. Annals of Tourism Research. 49: 19-32. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0160738314000954>*
[5] *Discussed in "Trail Towns – Leveraging Trails for Community and Economic Development" from the Advancing Trails Webinar Series (American Trails).*

Trail Town Amenities

		Grocery Store	Restaurants or Brewery	Medical Service	Lodging	Trail Access	Public Restroom	Points of Interest
1	Downsville	●	◑	●	◑	●	◑	◑
	Livingston Manor	●	●	●	◑	○	◑	◑
	Roscoe	●	●	◑	◑	○	●	◑
	Walton	◑	◑	◑	◑	○	◑	◑
2	Andes	◑	●	◑	◑	◑	◑	○
	Delhi	●	●	●	◑	◑	◑	◑
	Hobart	◑	◑	○	○	●	○	○
	Roxbury	◑	◑	○	◑	●	◑	●
3	Arkville	○	◑	●	◑	◑	◑	◑
	Fleischmanns	●	◑	○	◑	○	○	○
	Margaretville	●	●	●	◑	●	●	◑
	Pine Hill	○	◑	○	●	●	◑	●
4	Hunter	◑	●	○	●	●	◑	◑
	Palenville	◑	○	○	◑	●	◑	●
	Prattsville	◑	○	○	◑	◑	○	◑
	Tannersville	●	●	○	●	●	◑	●
	Windham	○	●	◑	●	◑	◑	●
5	Boiceville	●	◑	○	○	●	◑	◑
	Mt. Tremper	○	○	○	●	◑	○	◑
	Phoenicia	◑	●	○	●	●	◑	◑
	Shokan	○	◑	○	○	●	◑	◑
	Woodstock	●	●	○	●	○	◑	●

○ Limited Access ◑ Some Access ● Good Access

STRATEGIES

Many of the existing federal, state, regional, and local trail town programs were modeled around a single program created in 2007. The Trail Town Program is an initiative of The Progress Fund, a non-profit financial institution focused on creating new and expanded tourism businesses through loans and coaching. The program helps communities think about nearby trails as an economic resource. In 2018, The Progress Fund published *The Trail Town Guide: Revitalizing Rural Communities with Bike Trail Tourism*, which distills the lessons learned by the program into four areas:

1. Partnerships – Recruit a core team of dedicated volunteers, including trail or recreation groups, business owners, town officials, county officials, tourism agencies, and chambers of commerce.

2. Assessment – Complete a community assessment, conduct visitor research, and develop an action plan. The program's *Trail Town Assessment Workbook* provides a step-by-step checklist for the core team to identify the town's strengths and weaknesses related to access, safety, signage, business/promotions, and design/amenities. After the community assessment, the core team will conduct visitor research through trail counts, intercept surveys of trail users, and business surveys.

3. Business Development – Provide tourists with restaurants, bars, shopping, and a variety of lodging options. Venues that reinforce the local character of the town, such as a local brewery, in-home lodging, antique shops, local historical societies, and restaurants that incorporate local ingredients all serve as major selling points.

4. Marketing - To unify these businesses and to create a cohesive experience along the entire trail, the program encourages development of a certified network of businesses with basic amenities for trail users, knowledge of the trail and surrounding area, and ability to promote the area's stewardship message. The branding can be specific to the network developed for the region or can lean on the national program branding. Marketing materials should avoid photos of trails and encourage a focus on specific cultural or historical elements that make the town unique.

Increasing connectivity of regional trail systems and nearby towns has been shown to provide an economic boost through increased direct spending and longer visits. The 62-mile Erie to Pittsburgh Trail in Pennsylvania reported a $7.5 million annual direct economic benefit. And in a 2014 survey, 43% of businesses near the trail stated that they intended to expand their operations as a result of their proximity to the trail network.[6]

[6] *Economic Impact of Regional Trails. Trail Town Program. <https://www.trailtowns.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Economic-impact-of-all-Trails-1.pdf>*

SUPPORT

The National Park Service's (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program helps extend NPS' mission outside of parks by supporting community-led conservation efforts and outdoor recreation. In recent years, that support has gone to helping to develop "Trail Town" programs across the country. Agencies, community groups, and non-profits can apply to an annual, competitive application process that will help the applicant inventory and analyze existing recreation assets, develop trail linkages, conduct community workshops, and find sources for future financial assistance.

CERTIFICATION

The Kentucky Trail Town Program led by the Kentucky Office of Adventure Tourism was designed to help communities maximize the economic potential of trail-based tourism, the program published *A How-to-Guide for Communities* in 2014. With help from the guide, 20 Kentucky communities have earned official trail town certification from the State.[7] Kentucky has one of the only state-managed certification programs in the country, and it selects towns based on the range of accommodations, amenities, and adventures they can provide visitors.

BEYOND TRAILS

Following the Trail Town model, formal River Town programs have popped up across the country around water trails. The National Road Heritage Corridor directs the Mon River Towns program, which provides technical assistance to develop economic and education-based strategies for communities near the Allegheny River, Monongahela River Valley, Schuylkill River, and French Creek watershed in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The program has developed a standard regional wayfinding design and a small business resource packet to help promote river-related marketing strategies. Organizers stress that multiple towns working together to address similar issues simultaneously has been critical to their success.

BASE CAMPS

While most trail town and river town programs connect towns along a shared long-distance trail,[8] some trail towns exist as "base camps" for outdoor recreation activities. Tellico Plains, Tennessee and Blue Ridge, Georgia are 50 miles apart along the Benton MacKaye Trail. While not directly connected to one another, their shared designation as a Southeastern Foot Trail Coalition (SEFTC) and Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) Trail Town helps to promote each town's resources that make them ideal locations to begin day trips and extended hikes.

[7] *Lawson, G. Borea Named as Official Kentucky Trail Town. State of Kentucky. November 2015.*
[8] *Additional multi-state and regional trail town programs include the Canal Towns Partnership, Arizona Trail Gateway Communities, and the Appalachian Trail Community Program.*

DEVELOP TRAIL TOWN PROGRAM

Responsible Agency: CWC

1. **Designate a program coordinator and seek Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) support to complete town assessments, conduct public workshops to gauge business interests, and to refine trail town networks**

2. **Develop a region-specific trail town manual based on examples from The Progress Fund to establish trail town criteria and to provide resources for participating towns**

3. **Based on business interest, pilot one network of trail towns using a "base camp" model and track the economic impact to the participating towns**

4. **Create unique branding identities for each participating network of trail towns based on available amenities (i.e. water, trail, snow, biking, etc.) and reinforce through multi-town events**

5. **Seek institutionalization through a statewide trail town certification program**

PROPOSED

Although most trail town programs are based around a single long-distance trail, development of a trail town program specific to the Greater Catskill Region would out of necessity be built around a modified "base camp" model, with sets of near-by towns grouped together into small networks. These networks could pool resources and develop mutually-beneficial marketing materials. Potential trail town networks could include:

- Group #1 - Livingston Manor and Roscoe. Based around Beaverkill and Mongaup Pond Campgrounds, Beaverkill and Willowemoc Creek, and proximity to the Route 17/86 corridor, these communities provide a gateway to the western Catskills.
- Group #2 - Andes, Delhi and Hobart. Based around the West Branch of the Delaware River, Catskill Scenic Trail, Palmer Hill, SUNY Delhi, wedding resources, and relatively flat on-road biking routes.
- Group #3 - Arkville, Fleischmanns, Margaretville and Roxbury. Based around Belleayre Mountain, Plattekill Mountain, the Delaware & Ulster Railroad, Woodchuck Lodge and Boyhood Rock (Burroughs), Dry Brook Ridge, and the Water Discovery Center.
- Group #4 - Palenville, Haines Falls, Tannersville, Hunter and Windham. Based around the Long Path/Escarpment Trail, Windham Mountain, North-South Lake Campground, Kaaterskill Rail Trail, Kaaterskill Falls, Hunter Mountain and the Devil's Path.
- Group #5 - Shokan, Boiceville, Mt. Tremper, Phoenicia and Pine Hill. Based around the Ashokan Rail-Trail, Catskills Visitor Center, Kenneth L. Wilson and Woodland Valley Campgrounds, the Phoenicia East Branch Trail, Wittenberg Mountain, Tan Bark Trail and the Long Path
- Group #6 – Woodstock and Willow. Based around Overlook Mountain, Onteora Lake, Wilson Campground, the Long Path and Devil's Path.

Potential criteria for the formation of a trail town network could include:

- Easily accessible to multiple short-distance hiking/cross-country skiing trails, a single long-distance hiking/cross-country skiing trail, a water trail, mt. biking trails, rail-trail, or popular on-road biking route
- Promotion of an annual event to attract public involvement
- Development of a trail-based service-learning educational component
- Promotion of "leave no trace" principles
- Network possible tourist attractions
- Local government support, inclusion with local planning documents, and an advisory committee/core volunteer group
- Development of a local marketing plan and method to evaluate the economic impact of the trail town designation at least every five years
- Clearly marked trail access points that are directly accessible from the town
- Connections to other recreational opportunities such as camping, hunting, fishing, and cultural/historic experiences
- Support facilities such as parking, restrooms, and emergency phones are provided (where feasible)
- Proximity to shopping, food options, and medical services
- An established maintenance schedule and maintenance support from at least one organization

Trail Community Kiosks

GAPS

Because visitors are becoming increasingly reliant on smartphones and other mobile devices for all stages of traveling (dreaming, planning, booking, experiencing, and sharing)[1] and telecommunication providers have found a market for tailored data roaming packages,[2,3] a lack of wireless coverage within the Plan Area presents a barrier to travel. A 2012 study in the Journal of Travel Research found that mobile devices help travelers solve problems, share experiences, and experience greater confidence while traveling.[4] And a 2015 survey of traveler behaviors found that between 74% and 82% of travelers use a smartphone on-site while traveling.[5]

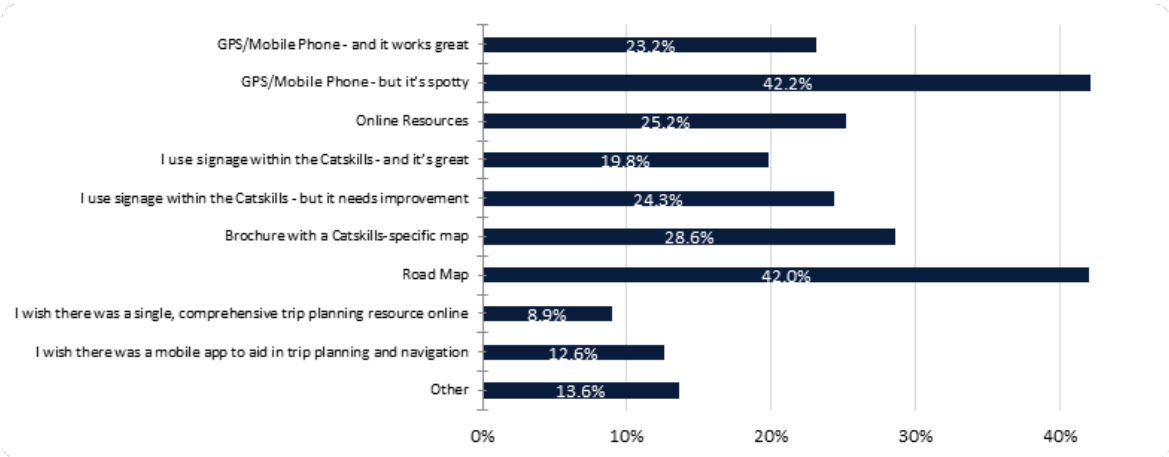
[1] *"How Micro-moments are reshaping the travel customer journey." Google, July 2016. <https://www.thinkwithgoogle.com/marketing-resources/micro-moments/micro-moments-travel-customer-journey/>*

[2] *Nickinson, P., 2014. International Data Overseas: How the US Carriers stack up. Androidcentral. <http://www.androidcentral.com/international-roaming-how-us-carriers-stack>*

[3] *Essers, L., 2014. EU Cuts Roaming Charges, Plans to Eliminate them by End of Next Year. PCWorld. <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2449140/europe-cuts-roaming-charges-plans-toeliminate-them-by-end-of-next-year.html>*

[4] *Wang, D., Park, S. & D.R. Fesenmaier, 2012. The Role of Smartphones in Mediating the Touristic Experience.Journal of Travel Research. <http://jtr.sagepub.com/content/51/4/371>*

[5] *Christian, M., 2015. Mobile Application Development inthe Tourism Industry and its Impacts on On-Site Travel Behavior. Modul University. <https://www.modul.ac.at/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=5212&token=574c2c521a177ac124fa57d70a466744635b16ac>*



The chart above shows the number of responses, if any, that the Plan's survey respondents use to navigate through the region. The majority of respondents indicated that they use a mobile phone or other GPS device for navigation (65%), with most indicating that limited cell coverage interfered with their ability to use the devices (42%). The second most popular navigation aid was local wayfinding signage (44%), with 24% of respondents indicating that the signage in the region needs improvement. The next most popular navigation aids were a road map (42%), Catskill-specific maps (29%), and general online resources (25%).

Visitors to the Greater Catskill Region prefer to use smartphones for navigation and rely on wayfinding as a back-up option.

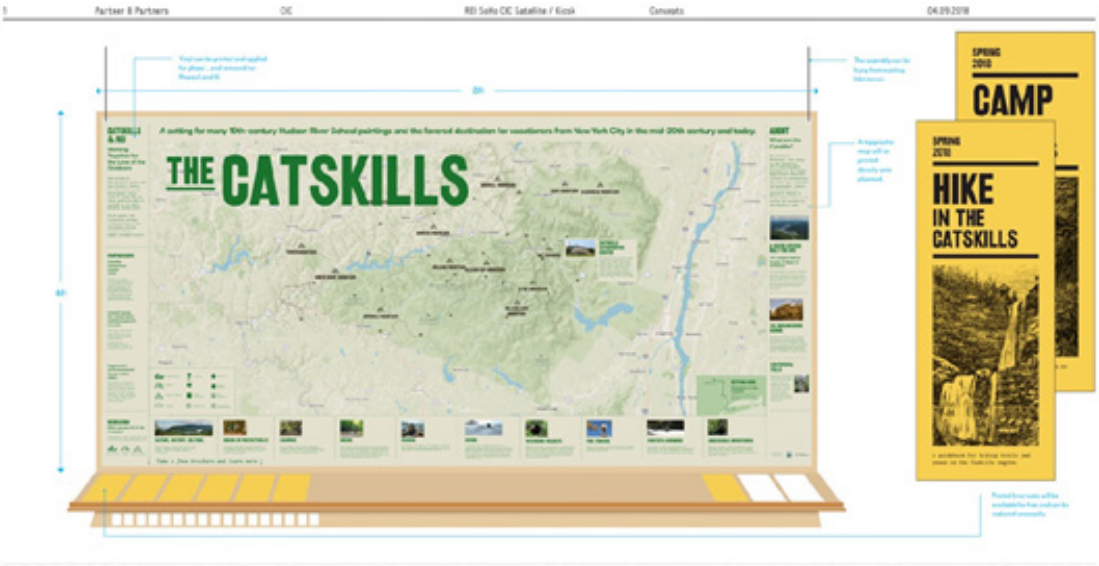
STRATEGIES

Where cell coverage is limited, development of improved signage can help orient visitors to the region and nearby towns and destinations. A common structure that NYSDEC uses to present information are kiosks, which have traditionally installed at trailheads and campgrounds. Development of satellite kiosks in trail towns would help reinforce the trail town branding and could help expand the mission of the Visitor Center. In addition to a location map, each kiosk could contain trail difficulty ratings, safety and stewardship messaging, brochures of local hikes, and cultural and historical interpretive information about its location (see below for a mock-up of a potential kiosk design from the Catskill Center). Sullivan County previously attempted installation of digital kiosks, but gaps in cell coverage limited their effectiveness.

KIOSK

INFORMATIVE SIGNAGE

Monumental kiosks and information signage like the mock-ups for the Barnegat Branch Trail in New Jersey pictured above can help connect trail with trail towns by serving as confirmation points for travelers.



Improve Coverage

Improving wireless coverage in rural areas is a major priority of the Federal Communications Commission and New York State. Short-term solutions to improving internet coverage can include the deployment of rugged WiFi hotspots (Portable Data Network) to remote areas or signal boosters near populated areas with limited wireless coverage. These devices can be strategically deployed at set intervals in dead zones to provide peace of mind to travelers managing offline navigation.

Offline Maps

If travelers know that they will be without wireless coverage but can prepare by temporarily accessing the internet before entering a dead zone, they may find downloading an offline map smartphone application to be beneficial. Free offline navigation apps include MAPS.ME (screenshot of bookmark function shown to the right), Google Maps, CityMaps2Go, GuruMaps, and Here WeGo. While not free, Maplets and AllTrails provide strong coverage of park spaces and trails. Offline maps have become increasingly popular, with 75% of surveyed smartphone users stating that they were familiar with offline maps while traveling.[5]

Micro-adventures

A long-held staple at tourism-related businesses is providing visitors access to brochures and magazines that provide information on activities in the nearby area. Usually these materials are provided by local businesses and help advertise paid services. A growing trend at outdoor recreation outfitters is the development of brochures that highlight "micro-adventures" or day trip activities that include a combination of free things to do (i.e. hikes, swimming holes, bike routes, etc.) with paid services, such as the location of restaurants.

PROPOSED

Trail Town Kiosks

Responsible Agency: Catskill Center

Develop a standard Greater Catskill Region kiosk that can be modified by a municipality to include local cultural and historical information. Consider prioritization of kiosks at municipalities that join the proposed regional Trail Town program and are within the path of travel from surrounding major cities (i.e. New York City, Boston, etc.) and the trail town network, such as Andes, Livingston Manor , Pine Hill, and Tannersville (at the Mountain Top Historical Society).

Consider incorporation of microadventure brochures at kiosks in locations with limited wireless coverage. For locations with wireless coverage, consider promoting the download of offline maps to help travelers navigate more remote parts of the region.

Short-distance Trails

GAPS

The Greater Catskill Region boasts over 1,000 miles of existing trails and routes along roadways ("road walks"). But the lack of connectivity between these facilities and the neighboring towns does not take full advantage of an opportunity to encourage healthy lifestyles among local residents and to economically capitalize on providing food, retail, and lodging services for visiting trail users. Currently, three of the four counties in the plan area rank in the bottom half of the state for health outcomes, with Sullivan County ranked as the second least healthy county in New York. As shown in **Table 08**, all four counties reported a higher prevalence of adult obesity than the state average (25%), three of the four counties reported a higher prevalence for physical inactivity than the national average (21%), and all four counties reported less access to exercise opportunities than the state average (93%). While trails are dispersed around the four-county area, many towns remain relatively isolated from the trail facilities. Research shows that direct access to trails increased the probability that a person will exercise regularly,[1,2] and increased physical activity levels have proven to improve health outcomes.[3]

When local residents use trails, they are helping to meet the recommended amount of weekly exercise. Research from the American Tobacco Trail in North Carolina found that the average trail trip was approximately 60 minutes,[4] and a study of six trails in Indiana found the average trip duration ranged between 35 and 90 minutes.[5] If residents make three to four trail trips per week, they will be able to meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation for adults between 150 minutes and 300 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week.[6]

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[1] *Brownson, RC, et al. Promoting physical activity in rural communities: walking trail access, use, and effects. American Journal of Preventative Medicine. 2000. 18(3): 235-241. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10722990>*

[2] *Librett, JJ, Yore, MM, and TL Schmid. Characteristics of physical activity levels among trail users in a U.S. national sample. American Journal of Preventative Medicine. 2006. 31(5): 399-405. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17046411>*

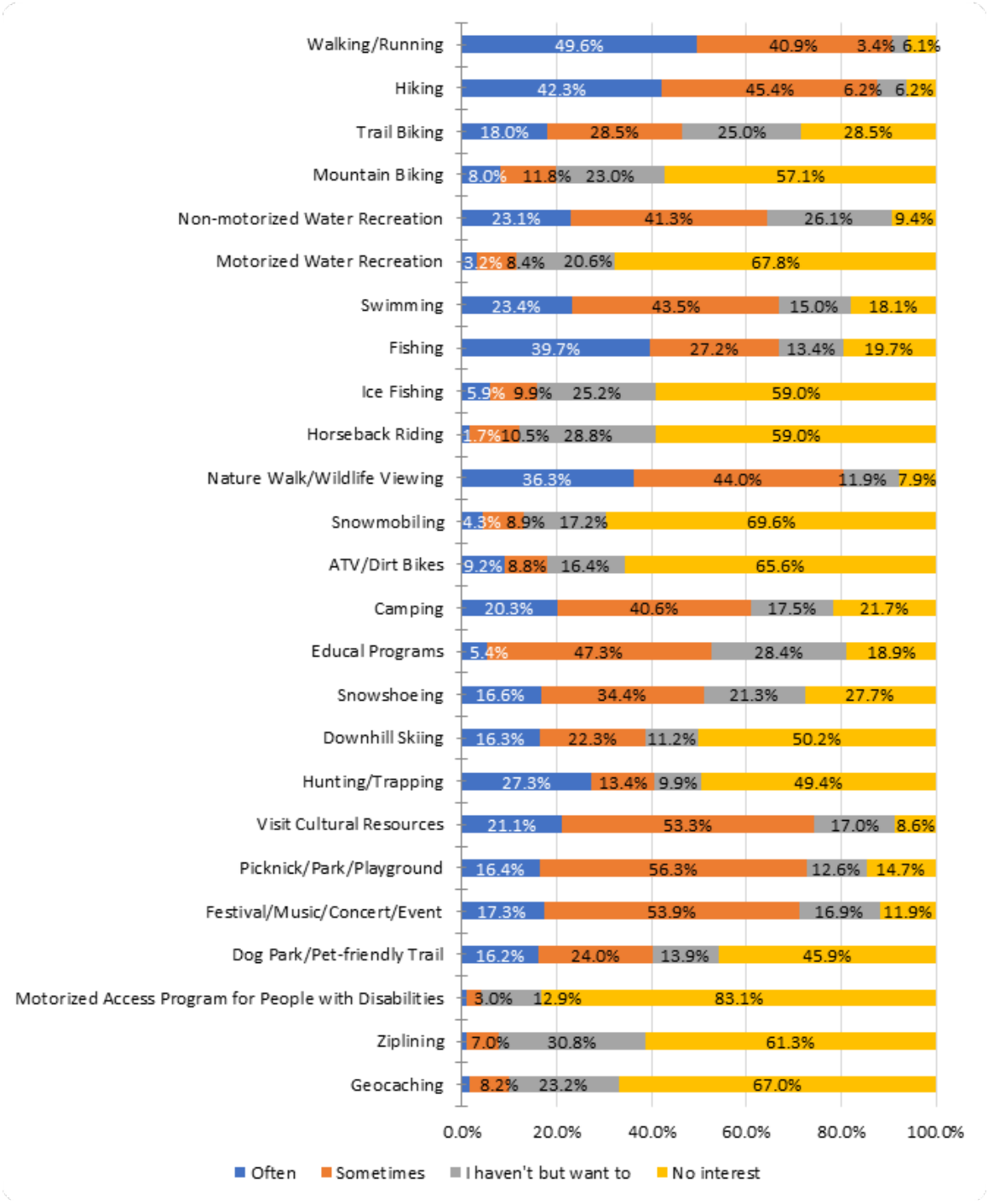
[3] *Haskell, WL, Blair SN, and JO Hill. Physical activity: health outcomes and importance for public health policy. Preventative Medicine. 2009. 49(4): 280-282. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19463850>*

[4] *Cook, et al. Behavioral Effects of Completing a Critical Link in the American Tobacco Trail (2014). ITRE and North Carolina State University. <https://itre.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/American-Tobacco-Trail-FinalReport-ITR-2014.pdf>*

[5] *Summary Report, Indiana Trails Study (2001). Indiana University and Indiana Department of Transportation. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/Trail_Study_20-indiana-trails-6-cities.pdf>*

[6] *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd Edition (2018). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://health.gov/paguidelines/second-edition/pdf/Physical_Activity_Guidelines_2nd_edition.pdf>*

Preferred Recreation Activities (n=786)



The chart on the previous page shows the Plan's online survey respondents' preferences for various outdoor recreation activities. The three most popular activities were:

- Walking/running with 91% of respondents saying they enjoy it "sometimes" or "often"
- Hiking with 88% of respondents saying they enjoy it "sometimes" or "often"
- Nature walk/wildlife viewing with 80% of respondents saying they enjoy it "sometimes" or "often"

When the survey results were limited to just residents of the four-county area, walking/running, hiking, and nature walk/wildlife viewing remained the most popular activities. And when new trails are built, research indicates that the primary users are local residents. Intercept surveys of trail users found that approximately 62% of trail users along the American Tobacco Trail in North Carolina were local,[7] 78% of trail users along the D&L Trail in Pennsylvania were local,[8] 47% of trail users along the Virginia Creeper Trail in Virginia were local,[9] and 96% of trail users along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in New York were from the nearby area.[10]

Development of trail loops that start and end at the same point, such as the Huckleberry Loop Trail, Mongaup Pond Loop, or Ashokan High Point Trail, help promote physical activity among local residents, make figuring out logistics for trail trips easier by eliminating the need for backtracking or finding a connecting shuttle service, and can build-in variety and complexity for more experienced hikers.

Towns in close proximity to trail systems that could benefit from improved connectivity between the town center and trailhead include Downsville, Grahamsville, Hunter, Margaretville, Olivebridge, Phoenicia, Prattsville, Tannersville, and Walton.

[7] *Evaluating the Economic Impact of Shared Use Paths in North Carolina (2018). ITRE. <https://itre.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NCDOT-2015-44_SUP-Project_Final-Report_optimized.pdf>*

[8] *D&L Trail User Survey and Economic Impact Analysis (2012). Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/Trail_Study_119-PA-D-L-Trail.pdf>*

[9] *Bowker, J.M, Bergstrom, J.C., and J. Gill. Estimating the economic value and impacts of recreational trails: a case study of the Virginia Creeper Trail (2007). Trail Economics. 13(2): 241-260. <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_bowker008.pdf>*

[10] *Feeney, S.J. The Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail: Analysis of Trail Use, Regional Benefits, & Economic Impact (1998). Schenectady County Legislature. <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/bike/usersurvey.pdf>*

STRATEGIES

Trail spurs help make the path to get from a trail to a town (or vice versa) obvious through the creation of short, well-marked links and wayfinding elements. The Progress Fund's Trail Town Program emphasizes the following basic elements needed to create a useful trail spur:

- **Trailheads** are the point where a visitor may first come into contact with a community, and provide the following basic amenities to help encourage them to enter the town:
  - Public art that celebrates the unique historical and cultural aspects of your community
  - Signage with maps that show the route to the town and note the availability of restrooms and trash receptacles in town
  - Well-marked parking with curb stops and lighting
  Shade structures, benches, and water fountains
  - Bike racks and bicycle repair fix-it stations
  - Contact point for shuttle service (which can accommodate bicycles or ski equipment)
- **Portals** are the point at which the user of the trail exits the trailhead with the intent of visiting the nearby community. The portal should be a welcoming point that clearly begins the process of directing the trail user through the community. Wayfinding that clearly directs trail users on a pathway to the central business district can help reinforce maps at the trailhead.
- **Pathways** are the corridor from the portal to the central business district. They could be just a few blocks in length or a mile long but should be regularly assessed for cleanliness, safety (including the minimization of trail crossings with busy roadways), and lighting. Pathways present an opportunity to consider the needs of business owners along the route.
- **Gateways** are the point at which the trail user enters the central business district of the community. They should be located at the edge of the central business district that is closest to the trailhead and along a well-developed pathway. Directional signage to attractions and businesses can be provided at gateways.
- **Central business districts** can serve as a hub for goods and services for trail users. To better accommodate trail users, bike racks, restaurants with outdoor seating, internet access, public restrooms, and ATMs (if the town has many cash-only businesses) are encouraged.

Signage

In addition to providing memorable landmarks through public art, trailheads can also provide information about and directions to the nearest town. The Great Allegheny Trail's *Graphic Identity & Sign Guidelines Manual* provides detailed design guidance for creating trailhead signage, trail stewardship signage, and trail directional amenity signs. Trailhead information signs can provide detailed maps of the trail town, businesses directories, regional maps, and acknowledge volunteer trail maintenance groups. In locations where promoting specific businesses is prohibited, a trail directional amenity sign may be appropriate. The written messages remain broad, excluding specific businesses and only providing general geographic cues and international symbols highlighting major amenities in the trail town, such as restaurants, accommodations, bathrooms/trash receptacles, information, visitor centers, and phone access. These signs can be placed at trail portals or serve as confirmation wayfinding for travelers along a path between a town and trail.

Another subtle way to help visitors find their way from the town to the trailhead is through pavement emblems and markings. The materials can include simple paint markings along paved roadways, non-skid vinyl decals along high-trafficked sidewalks, or metal medallions along rural roads. The best wayfinding systems develop a hierarchy of signage that reinforce one another and help direct people along a spur route between a trail and a town, campground, or visitor center.

Public Art

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail is a 47-mile, multi-use interpretive trail in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Central to the trail's design is telling the area's history through functional art installations. Often trail users would have to navigate around the iron ore pellets that would roll down a hill next to the trail. To solve this problem, the trail's recreation authority installed a 12-foot-wide mural depicting the daily life of miners on the Marquette Iron Range in the mid-1850s that has the co-benefit of blocking the pellets before they reach the trail.

In addition to the mural, the Iron Ore Heritage Trail Recreation Authority emphasizes the area's unique mining history through memorable trail markers, interpretive kiosks, art installations at trailheads (which serve as landmarks), and decorative benches that display the locations of towns along the trail.[11] The trail's public art also makes marketing the experience easier, allowing all of the trail towns to include photos that highlight the area's unique character instead of a generic trail photo.

Once a series of art projects have come to fruition, trail users can use them to plan their trip. The Atlanta BeltLine's interactive map ensures visitors can locate each installation and allows residents to offer new ideas for more projects. Similarly, the Great Allegheny Passage offers a comprehensive, town-by-town list for art lovers to explore.

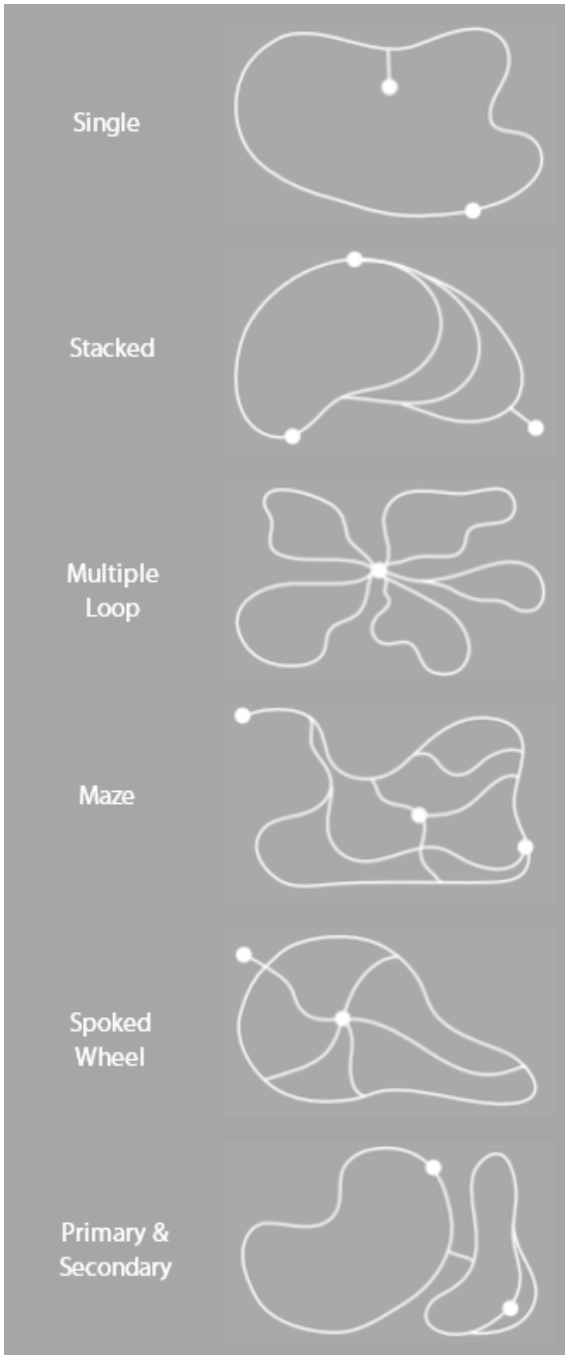
[11] *Anderson, M. Enjoy the view at new artistic Iron Ore Heritage Trail benches (June 2017). TV6. <https://bit.ly/2XoeMTw>*

Loops

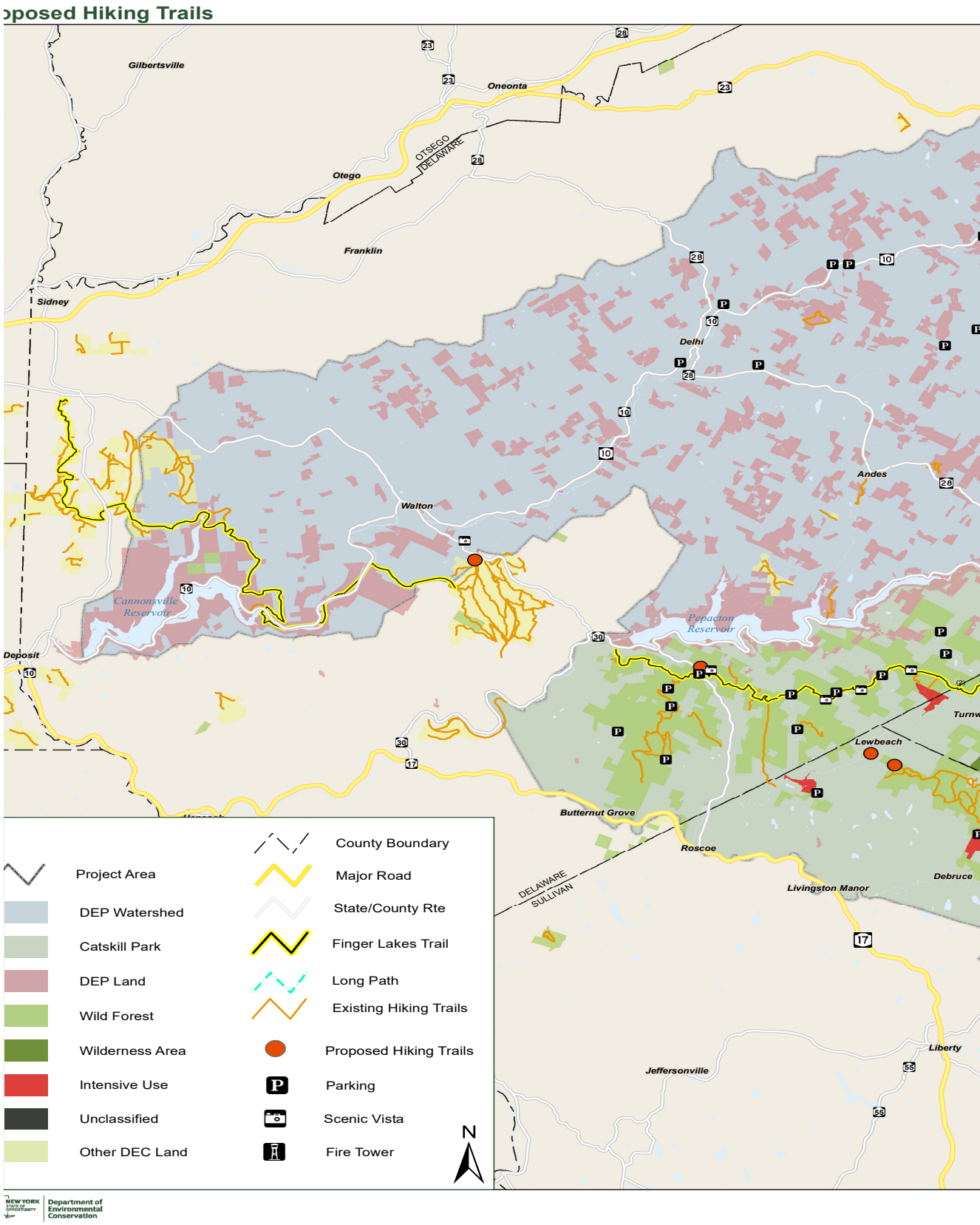
The Pennsylvania Trail Design & Design Principles from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) identify seven trail system layouts:

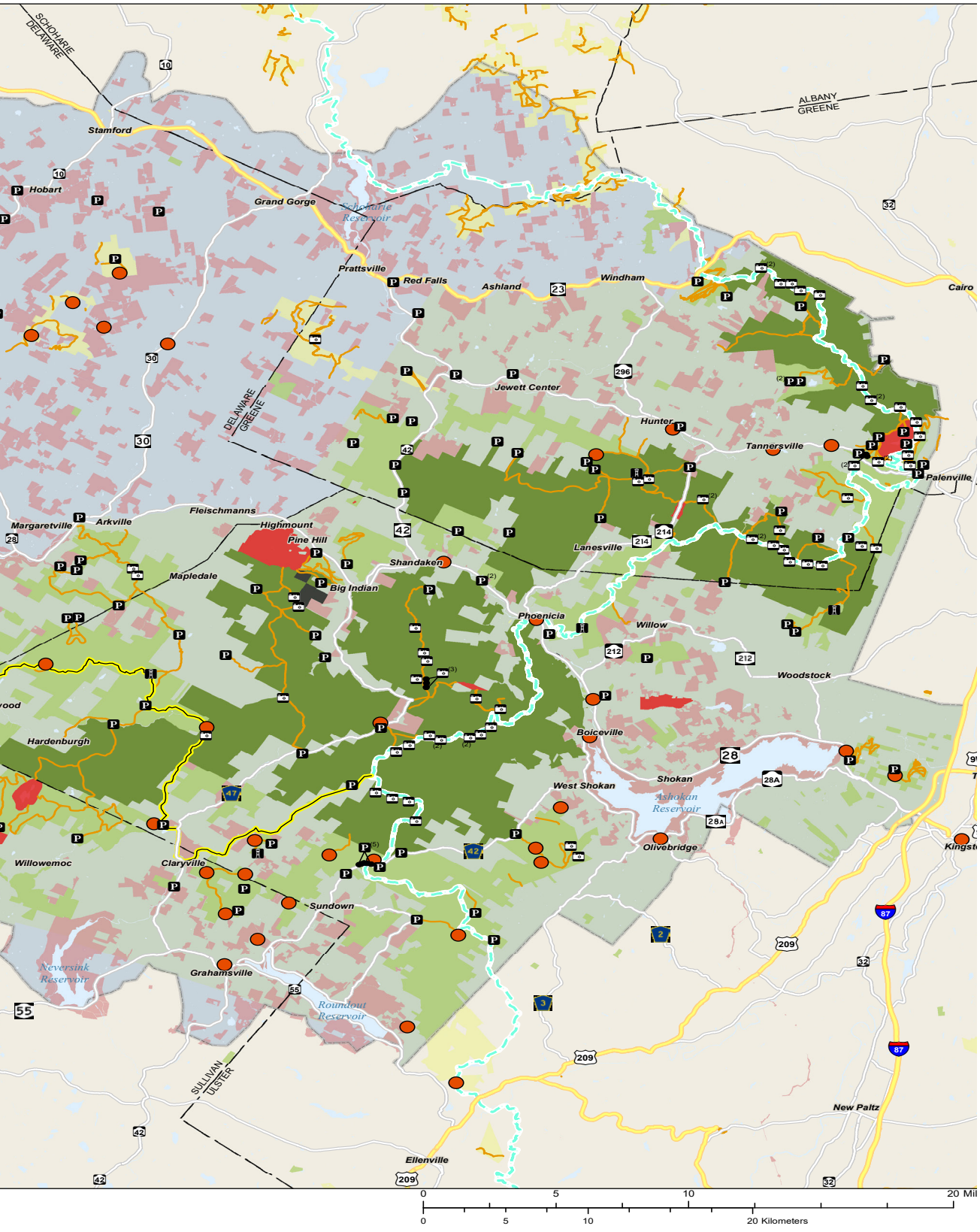
- **Point-to-Point System** – The simplest trail layout has a point of origin and a destination. It connects two points or links to two trails. Use this layout where there are points of interest or destinations along a single, narrow corridor or to connect other trail systems where the terrain or land ownership restricts the trail to a single narrow corridor. Most trails in the plan area are point-to-point, and major disadvantages of this layout is that the visitor to the trail must return to the point of origin and difficult terrain at any point along the route may limit the use of the rest of the trail for people with physical limitations.
- **Single Loop System** – This system is most often used for a single, long-distance trial or for shorter duration trails around lakes and reservoirs. Single loops typically have multiple trailheads located along them and allow a trail user to return to their starting point without repeating scenery. However, like the point-to-point system, they are limited in their potential to provide variety and difficult terrain at any point along the route may limit the use of the rest of the trail for people with physical limitations.
- **Stacked Loop System** – This system generally has only one trailhead but provides multiple levels of difficulty, with each loop becoming more difficult. They provide users the opportunity to choose the length and duration of their trail experience, and the system can allow a party of trail users with varying skill levels to enjoy an outing together.
- **Multiple Loop System** – This system typically has a single trailhead with several loops radiating out from one point of origin. Each loop may have differing levels of difficulty, helping to provide a variety of trail experiences. In addition, they help promote connectivity to a central node, such as a trail town or campground.
- **Spoked Wheel System** – This system consists of an outer loop connected to a center trailhead, trail town, or campground by a series of linear trails. Multiple trailheads along the outer loop can be established, helping to provide a variety of experiences for trail users.
- **Primary and Secondary Loop System** – This system connects a larger, primary single loop to a smaller single loop or stacked loop system. This design allows for a variety of access points, levels of difficulty, and trail experiences.
- **Maze System** – This system incorporates multiple loops and linear trails to create a series of route alternatives. This system can provide a variety of trail experiences but can be disorienting and requires strong mapping resources and wayfinding.

Trail Loop Systems



MAP 02: SHORT AND LONG DISTANCE TRAILS (SOURCE: NYSDEC)




SCHOHARIE
DELAWARE
ALBANY
GREENE
Stamford
Hobart
Grand Gorge
Schoharie Reservoir
Prattsville
Red Falls
Ashland
Windham
Cairo
Jewett Center
DELAWARE
GREENE
Hunter
Tannersville
Palenville
Fleischmanns
Margaretville
Arkville
Highmount
Pine Hill
Shandaken
Lanesville
Mapledale
Big Indian
Phoenicia
Willow
Woodstock
Hardenburgh
Boiceville
West Shokan
Shokan
Ashokan Reservoir
Olivebridge
Willowemoc
Claryville
Sundown
Neversink Reservoir
Grahamsville
Roundout Reservoir
SULLIVAN
ULSTER
New Paltz
Ellenville
0 5 10 20 Miles
0 5 10 20 Kilometers

PROPOSED

Development of short-distance trail spurs and trail loops that connect the central business districts of trail towns with outdoor recreational opportunities through clear signage, public art, gateways, and direct pathways can help make exercising the easy choice for local residents.

Public Health

Develop relationship with local and regional public health partners, including medical services and county-level health departments. Share data on access to exercise opportunities, track health-related performance measures, collaborate on materials promoting the benefits of active lifestyles, and pursue mutually beneficial project funding.

Responsible Agencies: All agencies

Trail Application

Consider revising the NYC DEP application process for trail development support. Provide easy-to-find documentation online that helps potential applicants identify what type of projects have been supported in the past, what type of projects may be supported in the future, the agency's priorities, and what resources must be identified before applying.

Responsible Agencies: NYC DEP

Denman Mountain Loop

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Expand the Denman Mountain Snowmobile Trail in Sundown Wild Forest to create a single loop trail system for hikers, mt. bikers, cross-country skiers, equestrians, and snowmobile users. Develop a marked trail on the east side of Denman Mountain that connects to the existing trail on the north, west, and south sides of the mountain and provides greater access to the Denman and Hogs Rock Plot parking lots. When paired with the proposed Grahamsville Spur Trails, this proposed loop will help connect the extended Finger Lakes Trail at Claryville to Rondout Reservoir and Grahamsville. The single loop system will provide an extended day hike for shoestring and economy hikers from Claryville or Grahamsville, helping make both towns more viable trail town options and helping to provide greater recreational access to Rondout Reservoir-Denman Mountain Loop.

Ashokan High Point Loop

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Expand the Ashokan High Point Trail in Sundown Wild Forest to create a stacked loop system for hikers, mt. bikers, and cross-country skiers. Develop a marked secondary loop that extends off the north end of the existing High Point loop and connects with the pathway from the Kanape Brook trailhead parking lot. When paired with the proposed Olivebridge Spur Trail, this proposed loop will provide an extended day hike for shoestring and economy hikers from Olivebridge, helping provide Olivebridge with multiple trail options, providing memorable views of the Ashokan Reservoir, and helping make it a more viable trail town option.

Morris Hill Hiking Trail

Responsible Agency: NYCDEC

Morris Hill Hiking Trail is planned for the NYC DEP Morris Hill 206 acre Recreation Unit, located across County Route 38 from the Watershed Discovery Center and DEP/Catskill Watershed Corporation Arkville offices. The trail will use a combination of existing logging roads and newly constructed trails to provide access to the Morris Hill Summit as well as less strenuous hiking opportunities through a series of looped trails. The trail will add to the recreational opportunities of visitors to the Water Discovery Center and compliment the planned interpretive trail around the center. This unit and location in Arkville have great potential of becoming a hub for outdoor activities and a model for other towns to use. This hub will bring people into the area and have positive economic impact for the town. The length of the trail is yet to be determined, but it is expected to provide over 5 miles of new hiking trails.

Margaretville Spur

Provide a short pedestrian connection paralleling Route 28 from the town center of Margaretville to the Dry Brook Ridge trailhead. This trail spur will make the connection between the Dry Brook Ridge Trail and its offshoots more visible and easier to access for people of all ages and abilities, in turn helping to promote Margaretville as a trail town.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYDOT

Huckleberry Point Trail Loop

Construct a new foot trail ascending Huckleberry Point via lands owned by the Nature Conservancy south of the existing foot trail, as well as forest preserve lands in the Kaaterskill Wild Forest, creating a loop from the Platte Clove Road trailhead parking lot.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Ticeteneyck Mountain Trail

Enhance an informal hiking trail on Ticeteneyck Mountain by improving and marking a parking lot on NYCDEP watershed lands on Peck Road in Olive and mark with trail markers and directional signage the route to the summit of Ticeteneyck Mountain in the Phoenicia – Mt. Tobias Wild Forest. Some improvements to address erosion or better define the trail may be necessary. Modest clearing of an existing vista(s) overlooking the Ashokan Reservoir may also be warranted.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Fleischmanns Spur

Provide a short side-path connection paralleling Route 28 from the town center of Fleischmanns to the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center. This side path would provide improved pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity within the proposed Margaretville-Arkville-Fleischmanns trail town network, helping to allow greater access to tourism resources provided by these communities.

Responsible Agency: NYDOT

Olivebridge Spur

Create a trail spur connecting the Ashokan Promenade, Olivebridge, and the Ashokan Reservoir to the Ashokan High Point Loop Trail. Future land acquisition by either DEC or DEP could enhance trail opportunities in this area. Development of this trail spur to Sundown Wild Forest, Acorn Hill, and Brodhead will help make Olivebridge and Shokan more viable trail town options.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Hunter Spur

Connect the public fishing parking area at the town of Hunter through Stony Clove Notch to the Becker Hollow parking lot and trailhead near Hunter-West Kill Wilderness. This connection will help provide greater access to the Spruceton Trail Loop for day hikes from Hunter, the Devil's Path, and Devil's Tombstone Campground.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Pratt Rock Spur

Improve access to Pratt Rock tourist attraction and views of the Schoharie Reservoir from Prattsville with a short, well-marked trail spur through Huntersfield Creek. Development of this trail spur will help make Prattsville a more viable trail town option.

Responsible Agency: NYC DEP

Walton Spur

Provide a trail spur between the town of Walton to the Finger Lake and Bear Spring Mountain trails through Bear Spring. Development of this trail spur will help make Walton a more viable trail town option and improve connectivity between the Cannonsville and Pepacton reservoirs.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Pepacton Overlook

Create a trail spur off the "Touch-Me-Not" section of the Finger Lakes Trail in Delaware Wild Forest to available parking in Beech Hill. This trail spur would provide an additional access point to the Pepacton Reservoir and the Little Pond Campground, as well as views of the Pepacton Reservoir.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Rondout

Create a short trail spur from the proposed western section of the Long Path through Sundown Wild Forest to existing parking in Vernooy Kill. This proposed spur would overlook Roundout Reservoir at Sholam and provide long-distance hikers on the Long Path a landmark location along their trip.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Mount Tobias Trail

Construct a new foot trail connecting the Catskills Visitor Center (CVC) to Mount Tobias as proposed in the Phoenicia – Mt. Tobias Wild Forest Unit Management Plan. The existing "Pre-Abbey Road" ROW will be used to connect from the CVC to forest preserve land at the higher elevations on Mount Tobias.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Red Hill Spur

Construct a new parking lot on NYCDEP watershed lands on Denning Road in Ladleton and a new foot trail connector to the Red Hill Fire Tower Trail in the Sundown Wild Forest. This proposed trail spur would provide an alternative access to the Red Hill Fire Tower, as well as a link to the Finger Lakes Trail and would help make Claryville a more viable trail town option.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Burroughs Trail

Connect the John Burroughs Memorial Site (Boyhood Rock) and Woodchuck Lodge site through a new interpretive trail spur off of the existing Catskill Scenic Trail. This proposed trail would provide a highly accessible route with historic attractions and help direct more visitors into an underutilized part of the Catskills.

Responsible Agencies: OPRHP, Woodchuck Lodge Inc., the John Burroughs Association.

Tombstone Loop

Provide a short trail connection between the available parking at the Notch Inn Road Trail to the Devil's Tombstone Campground along the Devil's Path. This short trail would help create a day hike loop for Devil's Tombstone Campground patrons along the Devil's Path and the Warner Creek section of the Long Path.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Long-distance Trails

GAPS

Including local, City, and State-owned land, there are over 900 miles of trails within the Plan Area. **Table 09** shows the miles of trails within each of the four counties of the general Plan Area (excluding portions of the county outside of the Catskill Park or watershed area). Currently there are over 500 miles of foot trails traversing the Greater Catskill Region, as shown in **Map 05**. Foot trails are generally 4 to 6 feet wide unpaved paths marked with a small, round "Foot Trail Marker" made of plastic and colored either red, blue, or yellow. Popular long-distance foot paths include the Escarpment Trail (approximately 22 miles), Devil's Path (approximately 22 miles), Finger Lakes Trail (approximately 39 miles locally and 1,000 miles overall), and the Long Path (approximately 66 miles locally and 358 miles overall).

Map 06 shows relative demand for hiking activity in the Plan Area based on data from Strava Metro.

Based on the Strava Metro trail activity data, trails near Downsville and Prattsville are underutilized, as well as the Finger Lakes Trail west of the Dry Brook Ridge Trail.

Highly popular locations for hiking include Giant Ledge, Slide Mountain, Kaaterskill Falls, Ashokan Reservoir, the Long Path between Phoenicia and Palenville, Peekamoose, the Devil's Path.

Towns with relatively high levels of pedestrian activity include Delhi, Walton, Andes, Windham, Hunter, Tannersville, Palenville, Phoenicia, Woodstock, and Stamford.

Table 09: Existing Trails in the Plan Area by County

Type of Trail†	Delaware County††	Greene County††	Sullivan County††	Ulster County††	Total
Foot	153.1 mi	154.9 mi	38.9 mi	200.3 mi	547.2
MAPPWD	4.7 mi	0.0 mi	0.0 mi	13.3 mi	18.0
Multi-use	40.2 mi	40.3 mi	9.9 mi	39.4 mi	129.8
Bicycle	42.1 mi	37.3 mi	0.0 mi	33.4 mi	112.7
Cross-country Ski	1.4 mi	4.6 mi	0.0 mi	9.6 mi	15.7
Snowmobile	341.4 mi	20.3 mi	27.3 mi	11.9 mi	400.9
Equestrian	0.0 mi	7.0 mi	0.0 mi	2.8 mi	9.8
Total Trails	501.3 mi	195.3 mi	38.9 mi	213.7 mi	949.1 mi

† Multiple uses are allowed on some trails, such as walking and cross-country skiing. Because of this, not all county trail totals equal the sum of the disaggregated miles by trail type

†† Does not include trails outside of the general project plan area, including several recently completed and ongoing rail-trail projects in Ulster County

‡ Based on best available data from NYSDEC, NYC DEP, and the Catskill Center; see Asset Management for proposals to improve trail inventory efforts

Table 10: Trailless Peak Tallies (NYSDEC, 2018)

REGION 3	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
LONE	39	39	40	20	54	46	38	443	61	24	27	41	472
ROCKY	42	39	31	16	52	25	33	39	51	23	20	42	413
BALSAM CAP	55	39	31	25	42	16	69	33	66	42	31	41	490
FRIDAY	66	38	37	25	42	15	54	34	61	29	32	29	462
BIG INDIAN	46	49	34	40	49	65	66	68	50	45	44	46	602
FIR	45	69	24	29	27	45	56	29	31	32	57	32	478
DOUBLE TOP	70	61	32	20	37	37	39	39	56	43	44	62	540
REGION 4	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
NORTH DOME	43	55	56	20	71	73	29	27	28	44	43	34	523
SHERRIL	53	50	55	14	41	71	27	32	26	42	30	32	473
HALCOTT	61	64	26	39	41	39	34	18	46	36	55	78	537
VLY	57	35	36	46	48	86	54	47	60	57	55	72	653
RUSK	75	31	61	36	42	68	44	29	43	49	45	92	615
SW HUNTER	57	55	49	41	74	78	65	40	68	67	40	64	698

Extended trail networks can be a major recreational resource for attracting visitors to the area and surrounding towns, and over the past several decades the demand for trails has grown within the Greater Catskill Region.[1]

Trailhead registration data from NYSDEC Region 3 and Region 4 is presented in **Tables 11, 12, and 13**. Between 2009 and 2018, 4 out of 18 trailhead registration box locations in Delaware County showed an increase in the number of sign-ins from trail users, and overall trailhead registrations decreased 17% from approximately 7,000 per year to 6,000 per year.

Between 2009 and 2018, 15 out of 26 trailhead registration box locations in Greene County showed an increase in the number of sign-ins from trail users, and overall trailhead registration increased 23% from approximately 49,000 per year to 60,000 per year.

Between 2007 and 2016, 3 out of 4 trailhead registration box locations in Sullivan County showed an increase in the number of sign-ins from trail users, and overall trailhead registration increased 54% from approximately 2,000 per year to 3,000 per year.

Between 2007 and 2016, 24 out of 25 trailhead registration box locations in Ulster County with available data showed an increase in the number of sign-ins from trail users, and overall trailhead registration increased 65% from approximatley 44,000 per year to 73,000 per year.

Trailheads with the largest absolute growth over the past ten years of data include Giant Ledge (+5,510 sign-ins per year), Overlook Mountain (+3,628 sign-ins per year), Kaaterskill Falls (+2,280 sign-ins per year), Wittenberg (+2,058 sign-ins per year), Spruceton (+1,871 sign-ins per year), Steenburgh (+1,760 sign-ins per year), and Slide Mountain (+1,733 sign-ins per year).

This growth in visitors presents opportunities for increased economic activity in the towns surrounding the trails, but it could also lead to over-use or require alterations to trail management practices to maintain a healthy environment for people, wildlife, vegetation, and waterways.

The trailheads that showed the largest absolute declines in activity over the past ten years of available data include Diamond Notch (-809 sign-ins per year), Boulder Rock (-642 sign-ins per year), Mary's Glen (-439 sign-ins per year), Holiday & Berry Brook (-282 sign-ins per year), and Devil's Tombstone - Plateau (-256 sign-ins per year).

Use of DEC Trail Registers is voluntary, and the number of people that sign in at trail registers varies widely. Studies indicate on average only about 50% of users sign in at the registers, and some register sign in rates are much lower than the average. In addition, maintenance of registers and other factors can influence sign-in rates. Thus, while trail registers provide a good source for general information and are good at reflecting trends in use, they are not an accurate absolute measure of public use.

[1] *Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (2008). NYSDEC.*
[2] *Archer, L. Trail Use within the Catskill Forest Preserve, New York State (2017). NYSDEC.*

Table 11: Trailhead Register Tallies, Delaware County

		Tally		Average	% Change
Trailhead Register	County	2009	2018	2009-2018	2009-2018
Beech Hill Road	Delaware	195	133	162	-31.8%
Big Pond East	Delaware	361	332	464	-8.0%
Big Pond West	Delaware	274	171	235	-37.6%
Bouchoux Trail	Delaware	1,269	1,415	1,510	11.5%
Campbell Brook	Delaware	310	137	172	-55.8%
Dry Brook Ridge	Delaware	379	293	349	-22.7%
German Hollow	Delaware	197	60	112	-69.5%
Hill Road	Delaware	281	166	272	-40.9%
Holiday & Berry Brook	Delaware	414	132	194	-68.1%
Huckleberry Loop	Delaware	193	74	102	-61.7%
Huggins Lake	Delaware	197	282	265	43.1%
Little Pond Campground	Delaware	383	482	573	25.8%
Little Pond Loop	Delaware	676	651	1,155	-3.7%
Mary Smith Hill	Delaware	248	173	195	-30.2%
Mud Pond	Delaware	169	44	94	-74.0%
Ploutz Road	Delaware	223	45	106	-79.8%
Rt 206 Cat Hollow	Delaware	296	135	216	-54.4%
Russell Brook	Delaware	1,213	1,314	1,529	8.3%

Table 12: Trailhead Register Tallies, Greene County

		Tally		Average	% Change
Trailhead Register	County	2009	2018	2009-2018	2009-2018
Acra Point	Greene	925	1,026	935	10.9%
Barnum Road	Greene	1,000	1,147	1,035	14.7%
Becker Hollow	Greene	1,369	1,262	1,588	-7.8%
Boulder Rock	Greene	2,590	1,948	2,518	-24.8%
Colgate Lake	Greene	776	695	754	-10.4%
Colonel's Chair	Greene	359	720	687	100.6%
Devil's Tombstone (Hunter)	Greene	838	1,022	1,124	22.0%
Devil's Tombstone (Plateau)	Greene	1,515	1,259	1,261	-16.9%
Diamond Notch (Lanesville)	Greene	468	1,165	858	148.9%
Diamond Notch (Spruceton)	Greene	2,315	1,506	1,839	-34.9%
East Windham	Greene	2,158	2,812	2,648	30.3%
Elm Ridge (Peck)	Greene	836	1,357	1,127	62.3%
Harding Road	Greene	1,396	1,097	1,416	-21.4%
Kaaterskill Falls	Greene	12,696	14,976	13,333	18.0%
Layman's Monument	Greene	2,043	2,840	2,312	39.0%
Long Path North	Greene	285	239	237	-16.1%
Mary's Glen	Greene	3,588	3,149	3,216	-12.2%
Mink Hollow	Greene	650	495	613	-23.8%
North Lake ByPass	Greene	797	1,526	1,301	91.5%
North Mountain	Greene	4,572	5,552	5,205	21.4%
Prediger	Greene	2,465	3,725	3,837	51.1%
Roaring Kill	Greene	1,791	2,719	2,450	51.8%
Spruceton	Greene	717	2,588	2,017	260.9%
Steenburgh	Greene	2,538	4,298	3,411	69.3%
Stork's Nest	Greene	228	209	296	-8.3%
Westkill	Greene	542	1,163	902	114.6%

Table 13: Trailhead Register Tallies, Sullivan County & Ulster County

		Tally		Average	% Change
Trailhead	County	2007	2016	2007-2016	2007-2016
Flynn	Sullivan	430	640	480	48.8%
Frick Pond	Sullivan	763	1,575	1,071	106.4%
Long Pond	Sullivan	331	342	307	3.3%
Mongaup Pond	Sullivan	266	201	1,326	-24.4%
Alder Lake	Ulster	1,616	2,678	1,865	65.7%
Ashokan High Point	Ulster	1,705	1,846	1,801	8.3%
Beaverkill	Ulster	1,088	1,732	1,393	59.2%
Biscuit Brook	Ulster	744	1,283	922	72.4%
Denning	Ulster	1,452	2,588	2,027	78.2%
Dry Brook Ridge	Ulster	152	251	196	65.1%
Fox Hollow	Ulster	643	1,154	907	79.5%
Giant Ledge	Ulster	4,815	10,325	7,426	114.4%
Hardenburgh	Ulster	109	145	96	33.0%
Kelley Hollow	Ulster	687	952	809	38.6%
Lane Street	Ulster	-	760	713	N/A
McKenley Hollow	Ulster	849	1,166	973	37.3%
Millbrook	Ulster	1,183	2,525	1,645	113.4%
Mt. Tremper	Ulster	2,378	2,967	2,839	24.8%
Onteora Lake	Ulster	1,887	3,467	2,458	83.7%
Overlook Mountain	Ulster	7,305	10,933	9,741	49.7%
Peekamoose	Ulster	1,638	3,168	2,301	93.4%
Quaker Clearing	Ulster	213	206	504	-3.3%
Red Hill	Ulster	879	2,222	1,430	152.8%
Rider Hollow	Ulster	1,092	1,884	1,379	72.5%
Rochester	Ulster	826	1,414	1,175	71.2%
Seager	Ulster	994	1,666	1,270	67.6%
Slide Mt.	Ulster	4,789	6,522	5,510	36.2%
Vernooy Kill	Ulster	2,220	3,441	2,082	55.0%
Wittenburg	Ulster	3,692	5,750	4,479	55.7%
Woodland Valley	Ulster	1,529	2,208	1,795	44.4%

STRATEGIES

While the region boasts a large number of existing, long-distance trail networks, such as the Long Path, Escarpment Trail, the Finger Lakes Trail, Pine Hill West Branch Trail, and Devil's Path, increased concentration of trail users along these paths lead to negative environmental impacts. In a 2015 research study, Ballantyne and Pickering assessed the trail surface condition, distance from the trail edge to the four forest strata (litter, understory, midstory, and tree cover), and the structure of the tree-line at 125 trail sites. They found that informal trails generally had poorer surface conditions and that wide informal trails lead to similar reductions in canopy cover and tree density as formal, hardened trails.[3] A 2009 dissertation found that visitors made poor trail designers and that visitor-created trails are less sustainable and more susceptible to subsequent degradation than formal trails. The author found that degrading influence of expanding trail widths was predominately a function of the following types of trail behaviors:

- Passing other trail users
- Side-by-side travel
- Avoidance of tread problems (e.g., muddiness, erosion, roughness)
- Inability to remain on the intended tread due to poorly marked trails or ambiguous tread borders
- Roaming associated with picking the easiest route when traversing steep grades
- Attraction and avoidance behaviors (e.g., gaining a view of staying away from a drop-off)

The author hypothesized that as the number of trail users increase on a given trail, the propensity for an increased occurrence of these six behaviors also increased. Strategies suggested by the author to prevent excessive trail widening include sloping terrain adjacent to side-hill trails and regular maintenance that ensures the trail is more inviting to traffic than the trailside terrain, such as addressing muddiness, erosion, excessive rutting, and the presence of exposed roots by avoiding steep grades, avoiding fall line alignments parallel to the landform grade that are difficult to drain and intercept natural water flows, conducting regular maintenance, and using durable treads ("trail hardening").[4]

Further, postdoctoral research from the author have led to a series of informal and formal trail assessment procedures.[5] The author suggests tracking the following five indicators along an informal trail to assess if corrective measures may be necessary:

1. Trail width
2. Cross-sectional area of soil loss
3. Maximum tread incision
4. Trail slope alignment
5. Slope ratio

[3]Ballantyne, M. and C.M. Pickering. Differences in the impacts of formal and informal recreational trails on urban forest loss and tree structure (2015). Journal of Environmental Management. 159: 94-105. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479715300591?via%3Dihub>

[4]Wimpey, J. Assessing and Evaluating Recreational Trails on Public Lands (2009). Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/28284/Dissertation_Master_JW_7_16.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

[5]Wimpey, J. and J.L. Marion. Formal and Informal Trail Monitoring Protocols and Baseline Conditions: Great Falls Park and Potomac Gorge (2011). U.S. Geological Survey. <https://www.wilderness.net/toolboxes/documents/trail/Formal%20and%20Informal%20Trail%20Monitoring%20Protocols.pdf>

If through assessment some trailess peaks or other trail segments are determined to receive enough use that formalizing the trails would help reduce long-term environmental impacts, trail hardening may be warranted.[6] Best practices for trail hardening of high-traffic areas include:[7]

Armored Trails – Helps reduce damage on switchbacks, sections of trail where grades exceed 20%, at gate openings, and ford approaches. Regular half high blocks, triloc blocks, and turf pavers are all examples of concrete blocks that have been used effectively to armor a trail.

Turnpikes – Used to elevate the trail above flat wet, boggy ground. The technique uses fill material from parallel side ditches and from offsite to build the trail base higher than the surrounding water table. It works well for multi-use trails but is limited to trail grades lower than 10%.

Puncheons – If the ground is too wet and drainage is not possible, a puncheon or boardwalk may be preferable. This wooden walkway helps cross bogs or small streams and consists of decks placed on stringers to elevate the trail across wet areas. It is preferred where rocky uneven terrain or muddy surfaces make turnpike construction impractical.

Corduroy – A primitive alternative to puncheons involves laying native logs on the ground side-by-side, binding them together, and leaving only the tops exposed. This method consumes large amounts of material and does not last as long as other methods.

Geosynthetics – Use of geotextiles (construction fabrics), geocells (polyethylene honeycomb structure), and geoblocks (grid-like blocks with high tensile strength that can be completely submerged) help with separation, reinforcement, and drainage. They are covered with soil or rock and, over time, they become a permanent part of the trail.

The purchase of additional land by New York State for inclusion within the Catskill Forest Preserve is guided by the language of the funding authorization, New York State Open Space Conservation Plan (2016), and UMPs may include acquisition priorities. Requirements for the purchase include a less than full fee title purchase, such as a conservation easement or other interest, be considered where practicable. Conservation easements (an interest in land other than full title, such as development, farming, or timber rights) may be purchased by the State or retained by the land owner, or retained by a third party, such as a conservation organization or land trust. Fee title acquisition conveys all the rights to use a parcel land. When purchasing either land or easements, the State will, in accordance with the enabling legislation pursue acquisition through voluntary agreement.

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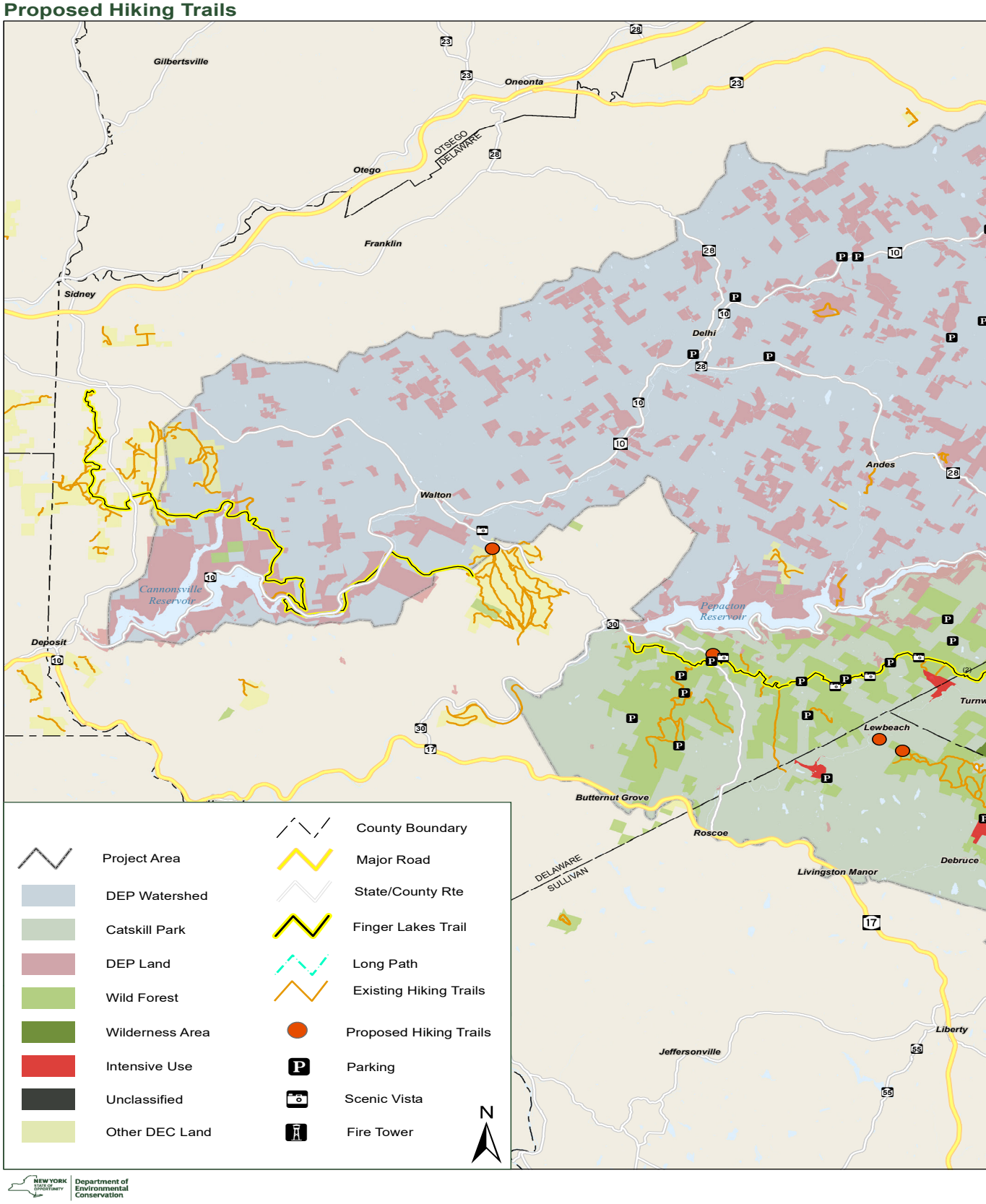
[6]For a literature review of trail assessments, see Comparing impacts between formal and informal recreational trails from Pickering and Norman (2017), The impacts of trail infrastructure on vegetation and soils (2015) from Ballantyne and Pickering, and Comparing the impacts of hiking, skiing, and horse riding on trail and vegetation in different types of forest (2009) from Torn, et al.

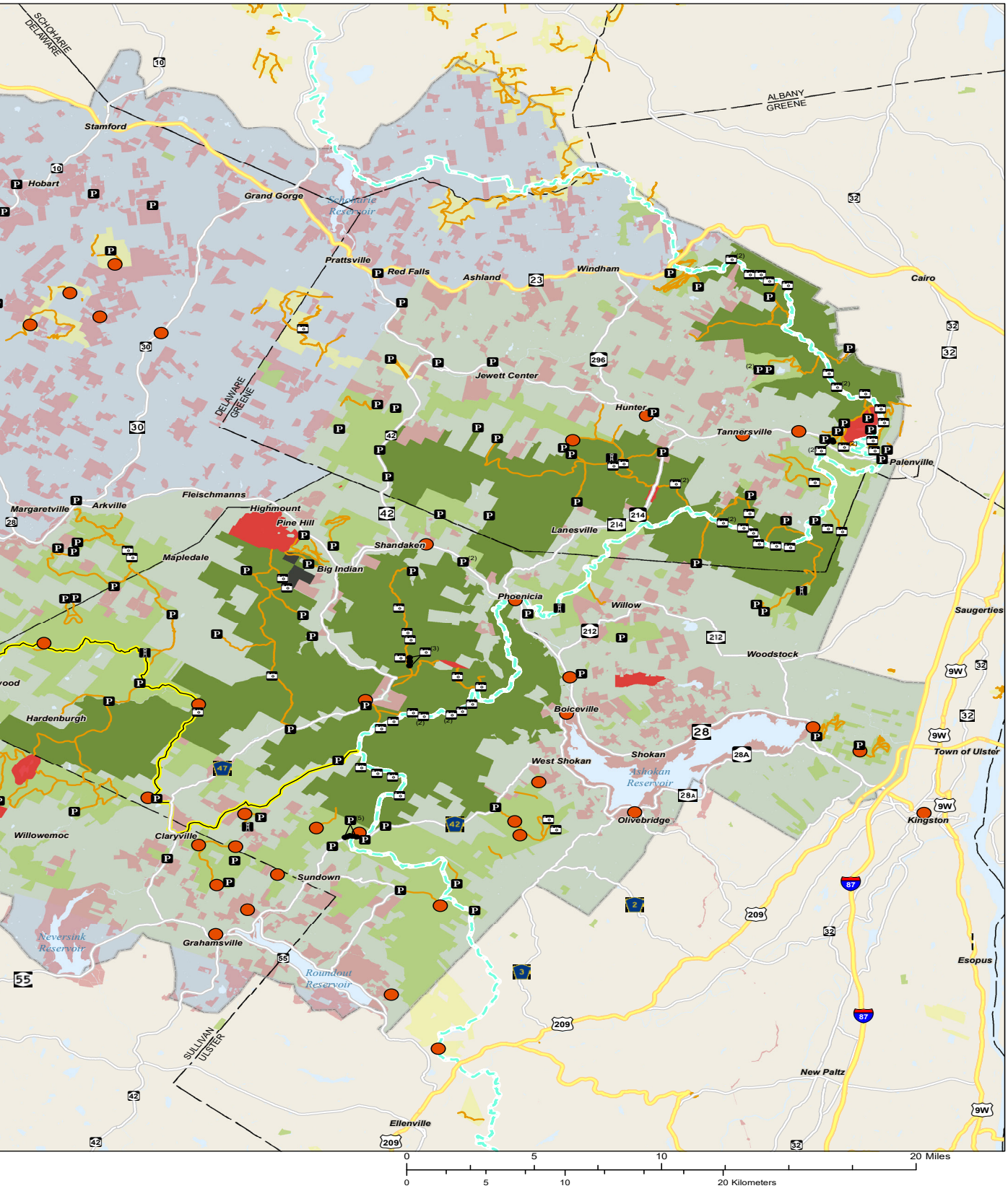
[7]Best Maintenance Practices: Maine Motorized Trail Construction and Maintenance Manual (2011). Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands Off-Road Vehicle Division. <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail_activities/atv/docs/motorized-trailBMP-handbook.pdf>
Also see Sustainable Trail Development: A Guide to Designing and Constructing Native-surface Trails from the Town of Castle Rock for more information on trail hardening best practices.

MAP 03: LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS (SOURCE: NYSDEC)

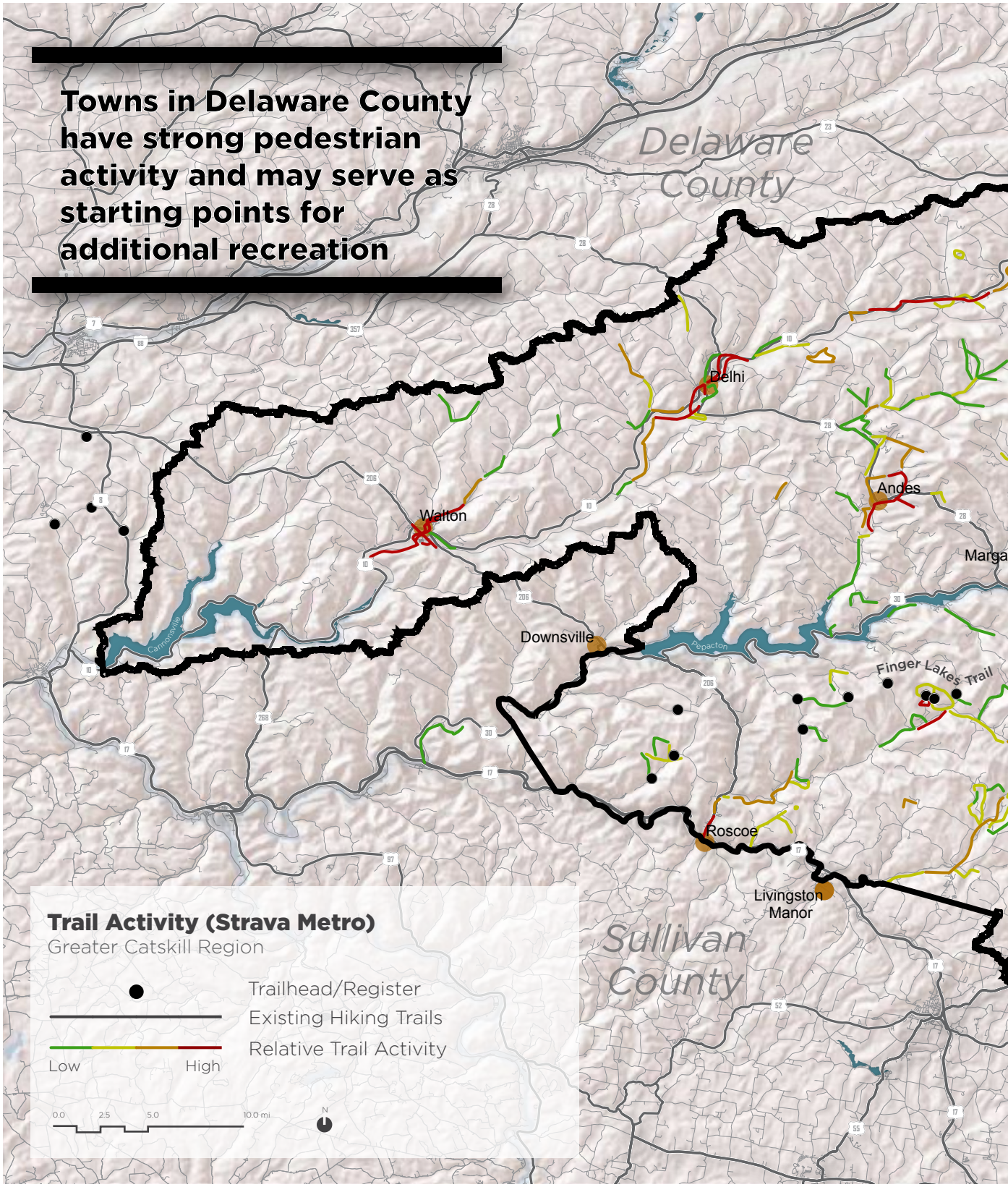
Proposed Hiking Trails

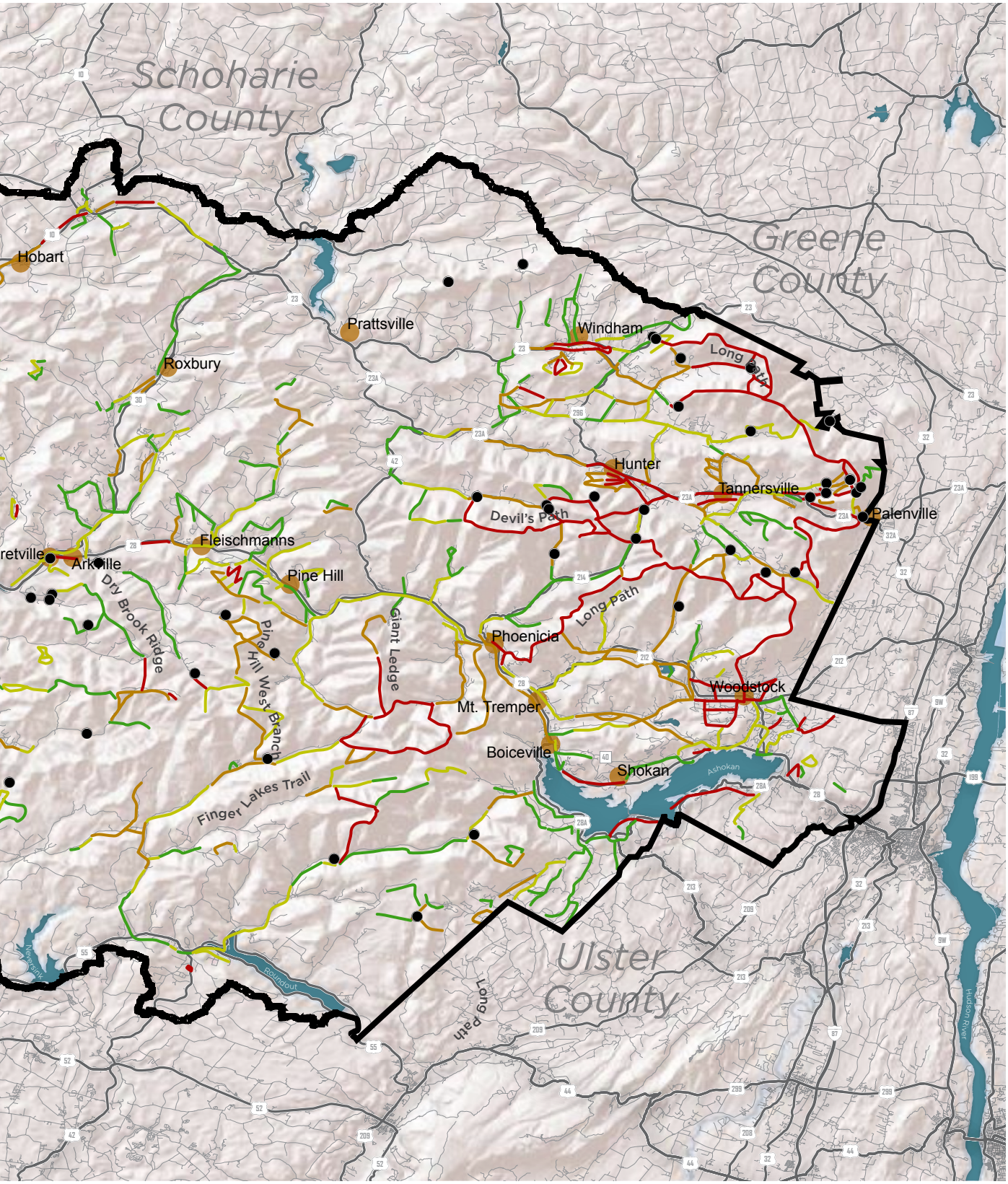


NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation


SCHOHARIE
DELAWARE
ALBANY
GREENE
Stamford
Hobart
Grand Gorge
Schoharie Reservoir
Prattsville
Red Falls
Ashland
Windham
Cairo
Jewett Center
DELAWARE
GREENE
Hunter
Tannersville
Palenville
Fleischmanns
Margaretville
Arkville
Highmount
Pine Hill
Lanesville
Shandaken
Mapledale
Big Indian
Phoenicia
Willow
Saugerties
Woodstock
Hardenburgh
Boiceville
West Shokan
Shokan
Ashokan Reservoir
Olivebridge
Town of Ulster
Kingston
Willowemoc
Claryville
Sundown
Neversink Reservoir
Grahamsville
Roundout Reservoir
SULLIVAN
ULSTER
Esopus
New Paltz
Ellenville
0 5 10 20 Miles
0 5 10 20 Kilometers

MAP 06: TRAIL ACTIVITY (SOURCE: STRAVA METRO)




Schoharie County
Greene County
Ulster County
Hobart
Prattsville
Roxbury
Windham
Long Path
Hunter
Tannersville
Palenville
Devil's Path
Fleischmanns
Arkville
Pine Hill
Dry Brook Ridge
Pine Hill West Branch
Giant Ledge
Phoenicia
Long Path
Woodstock
Mt. Tremper
Boiceville
Shokan
Ashokan
Finger Lakes Trail
Long Path

PROPOSED

New Long-Distance Trails

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

One potential enhancement of the long-distance trail system in the park was identified following stakeholder input and analysis:

- Extend the Devil's Path west, ascending North Dome and Mount Sherill, terminating on Route 214 at a location to be determined, but likely at or near an existing parking area south of the highpoint in the highway. Herd paths on North Dome and Sherill suggest that their trail-less character has been compromised and that natural resource impacts could be mitigated by marking a preferred route up these peaks. This would enhance the Devil's Path, adding to the challenge and wilderness character this trail provides. In the future, this trail could be extended to traverse Halcott Mountain, Vly Mountain and Bearpen Mountain to provide an even longer experience, should future land acquisition allow for a public land connection.
  Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

- Long Path Improvement: Eliminate the existing road walk west of Phoenicia by developing a foot trail connecting the Tan Bark trail in the hamlet of Phoenicia with the Phoenicia Trail on forest preserve lands near the summit of Tremper Mountain. This project would require permission of the private landowner who currently accommodates and allows for public use of the Tanbark Trail, as well as inclusion in the Phoenica-Mt Tobias Wild Forest UMP. Responsible Agency: NYSDEC.

Courtesy of: Timothy Cox

Accessible Trails

GAPS

Over the years, an extensive network of trails and several campgrounds have been developed in the Plan Area to provide recreational opportunities for the public. However, because much of the land is managed as undeveloped natural area and because of its rugged terrain, much of the public land in the Plan Area has been largely inaccessible to people with physical limitations or disabilities. The need to protect the wild character of forest preserve lands sets limits on the degree of physical modification that can be undertaken to increase their accessibility, especially in areas classified as wilderness. The federal American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) obligates NYSDEC to provide access to the outdoor recreation facilities under its authority, to the extent that access measures will not degrade the fundamental nature of a facility's recreational environment,[1] NYSDEC is committed to meeting this mandate. The NYSDEC uses the U.S Access Board's Final Guidance for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas as amended in (2013) (Access Boards Guidelines) as guidance for complying with the ADA.

Currently, 12% of New Yorkers experience a disability, including 7% with an ambulatory difficulty and 2% with a vision difficulty.[2] Studies have shown that people with mobility disabilities participated less frequently in outdoor recreation activities than people without disabilities. Additionally, larger percentages of people with mobility disabilities identified constraints to participation than people without disabilities.[3] In a telephone survey conducted by the National Forest Service, respondents who identified as having a mobility-related disability were significantly more likely than people without a disability to report the following reasons for not participating in outdoor recreation:

- Personal Health
- Inadequate Transportation
- Concerns with Personal Safety
- Inadequate facilities
- Poorly maintained facilities
- Lack of assistance for mobility condition

However, people with mobility-related disabilities reported that they were just as interested as people without a mobility-related disability to participate in sightseeing, visiting historic sites, bird watching, viewing wildlife/fish, driving off- road, visiting nature center centers, fishing, attending concerts, camping, sledding, horseback riding, backpacking, and canoeing. Despite the similarity of preferences of characteristics of outdoor recreation experiences[4], various factors interfered with the ability of people with mobility disabilities to experience many outdoor recreation activities. In a 1995 study, Henderson and Bedini reported that environmental factors of facilities are more likely to limit participation than disabilities in and of themselves[5].118 Limiting environmental factors such as the accessibility of recreation sites can be in part mitigated through design.

[1]*Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (2008). NYSDEC. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43013.html>*

[2]*Table S1810: Disability Characteristics. 2017 One-year Estimates, American Community Survey, FactFinder. Notes: Survey of civilian noninstitutionalized population. Includes hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living difficulties.*

[3]*Williams, R., Vogelsong, H., Green, G., and K. Cordell. (2004). Outdoor recreation participation of people with mobility disabilities: selected results of the national survey of recreation and the environment. U.S. Forest Service. <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/21304>*

[4]*Brown, T.J., Kaplan, R., and G. Quaderer. (1999). Beyond accessibility: Preference for natural areas. Therapeutic Recreation Journal, 33(3), 209-221.*

[5]*Henderson, K.A. and L.A. Bedini. (1995). "I have a soul that dances like Tina Turner, but my body can't": Physical activity and women with mobility impairments. Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport, 66(2), 151-161.*

While foot paths are widely distributed throughout the region, most ascend ridges and mountains and are considered moderately or highly strenuous by the average user. To make some routes more accessible, approximately 18 miles of trails in the study are designated as "Motor Vehicle Access for People with Disabilities" (MAPPWD). MAPPWD permit holders can use a permitted vehicle (two-wheel drive passenger car, four-wheel drive truck/SUV, or all-terrain vehicle, depending on location) on select NYSDEC trails that are otherwise only designated for hiking or bicycling. MAPPWD Routes have been carefully selected to protect natural areas and recreational activities.

Multi-use trails also offer a more accessible trail experience. There are approximately 130 miles of multi-use trails in the region, with most located along former railroad beds (known as a "rail-trail") outside of State- and City-owned land. Exceptions on watershed land include the Ashokan Rail-Trail, which allows "family-friendly" bicycling, and the Andes Rail-Trail (footpath). These trails allow people to recreate along relatively flat gradients and often smooth surfaces.

Multi-use trails in the region, such as the Ashokan Reservoir Promenade, Ashokan Rail Trail, Andes Rail Trail, Catskill Scenic Trail, Kaaterskill Rail Trail, and The Windham Multi-use Path offer opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy outdoor recreation. Because of the accessibility of these trails and their ability to encourage healthy lifestyles among young families and senior citizens,[6] more communities are looking to develop connected multi-use trails.

Just as important to accessibility as design are policies. Adaptive sports policies seek to make physical activities, such as hunting (and sport shooting), hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing, accessible to people of all abilities. Promotion and/or expansion of existing policies that allow hunters to drive into non-environmentally sensitive forested areas can provide increased access for the mobility-impaired.[7]

The Plan Area is home to the Adaptive Sports Foundation which provides outdoor experiences and support to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities and chronic illnesses, and also prepares athletes for the Paralympics and Special Olympics (in Windham). While the foundation focuses on winter sports, they also provide support for other adaptive sports. Clustering of additional accessible trails and features near Windham would help expand the number of resources available to the foundation.

To help support people with limited mobility on trails, NYSDEC allows service animals at all their sites[8] and encourage visitors to contact a NYSDEC Access Coordinator to identify individual needs.

Identification of the most impactful clustering of accessible recreation facilities usually takes place through a universal access plan. The primary national resource for developing a universal access plan is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails (2012), which helps designers and managers apply the 2006 Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG) and Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (STAG) to outdoor recreation sites and trail projects. The guidebook includes sections on developing accessible parking lots, campsites and tent platforms, fire rings and grills, toilets, trails, trailheads and signage.

Cultural and historic sites also offer a fun way for visitors to learn about the region's history. Catskills Visitor Center (CVC) serves as a gateway to the region and is the official visitor center for the Catskill Park. It is supported through a partnership of the CVC and NYSDEC. The CVC's exhibits and staff can help visitors plan their trip in the region, including helping them find historic sites, cultural events, and trails that match their interests and abilities.

[6]*See "Places for Physical Activity: Facilitating Development of a Community Trail and Promoting Its Use to Increase Physical Activity Among Youth and Adults" (2008) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for more information on approaches to promoting healthy living through trails*

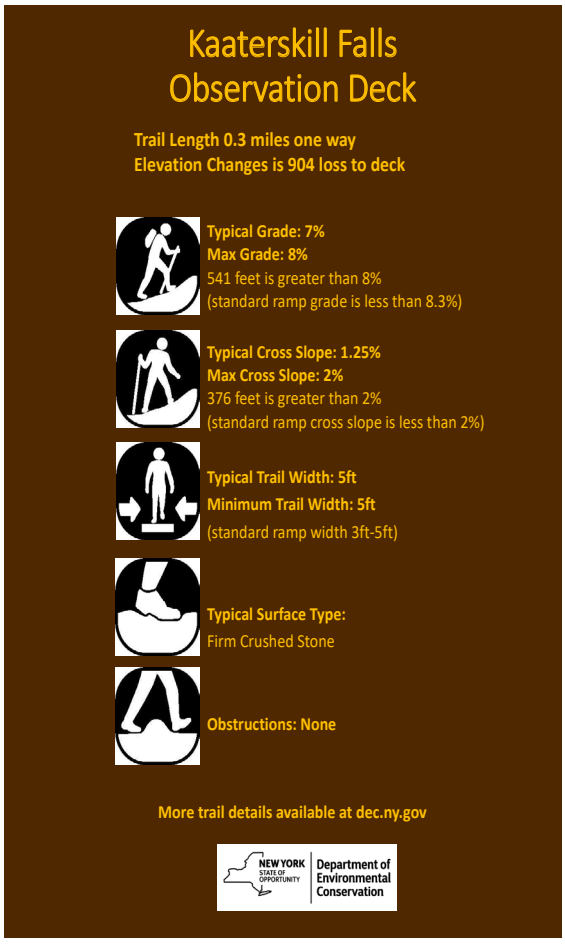
[7]*NYSDEC's 1997 policy CP-3, Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands Under Jurisdiction of DEC for People with Disabilities sets guidelines for affording people with mobility impairments additional opportunities for motor vehicle access to roads on forest preserve lands. Policy CP-3 reflects an interpretation of the ADA in terms of the "fundamental nature" of each Forest Preserve classification. Wilderness areas are managed to preserve their natural conditions, minimize human disturbance, and offer opportunities for solitude. Therefore, no use of motor vehicles is allowed. Wild forest areas are managed to accommodate a greater variety of recreational activities and higher intensity of recreational use. While the preservation of their wild character remains the primary management goal, the use of motor vehicles may be allowed to a limited extent. CP-3 sets forth NYSDEC's policy for affording people with disabilities opportunities for motor vehicle use in wild forest areas.*

[8]*The North American Packgoat Association is one example of how service animals can help increase the accessibility of outdoor recreation facilities for people with mobility-related disabilities.*

STRATEGIES

Forest Preserve areas classified as Intensive Use Areas provide visitors with a "front country" experience. Intensive use classification is given to areas managed to provide an array of outdoor recreational opportunities for people with a multitude of interests and abilities. Because most structures and improvements can easily be reach by automobile, intensive use areas are or can be made the most accessible parts of the Forest Preserve. The guidelines for management of intensive use areas provide the greatest flexibility in improving accessibility. In campgrounds, NYSDEC already has made a number of improvements. Restrooms, camping and picnic areas, and fishing ac-cess sites and boat launches (including at NYC DEP sites) have been designed with accessibility principles in mind. Nevertheless, there may be places in individual intensive use areas whose accessibility can be improved. Intensive Use Areas that are situated adjacent to wild forest lands present an opportunity to develop trails that would expand accessible recreational opportunities for visitors. The NYSDEC uses the U.S Access Board's Final Guidance For Federal Outdoor Developed Areas as amended in (2013) (Access Boards Guidelines) as guidance for complying with the ADA.

The Universal Trail Assessment Protocol (UTAP) was developed as an objective method of measuring and documenting the conditions of an outdoor feature (such as trails and campsites). The goal of UTAP is to provide this useful information to anyone considering using the facility, no matter their ability. UTAP information includes the grade, cross slope, width, surface and trail length. UTAP information can be provided at trailheads, brochures and online. Providing the information online will allow users to self-assess prior to arriving on site



Development of rail-trails allow for trail users to experience a flat or gentle grade that is conducive to wheelchair use, in addition to walking, jogging, bicycling, skating, and cross-country skiing. A large number of completed, on-going, or planned rail-trail projects exist within the plan area, and these projects offer a family-friendly recreational resource that will allow people of all ages and abilities to explore some of the longest stretches of uninterrupted trails in the Greater Catskill Region. The greatest risk following abandonment of a rail line is the possibility that the right of way will be subdivided and sold off piece-meal, all but precluding any future public use that would require an intact, continuous corridor. Ensuring the long-term integrity of the abandoned rail lines by conversion to recreational trails is, therefore, of paramount importance in the contract of priorities and protection.[9] [10]

Development of interpretive trails can also increase the number of people who have access to the region's natural resources. The Mass Audubon Accessible Trails Project developed multi-sensory interpretive content for ADA-accessible trails at wildlife sanctuaries in Massachusetts. Additions to the trails include audio tours, brailed texts and tactile maps, rope/post guiding systems, interpretive stop markers, and wider boardwalks. Their Accessible Trails Manual provides comprehensive guidelines for accessible trail design. In addition, elevated boardwalk trails help provide access to park land over rough, uneven terrain for people with ambulatory disabilities and parents pushing strollers. By confining foot traffic to a clearly defined path, visitors are less likely to go off-trail and cause stress or damage to fragile ecosystems. Currently, self-guided interpretive nature trails have been developed at the CVC and at Kenneth L. Wilson Campground. At these sites interpretive booklets explain the natural and cultural history and the ecology of these areas. In addition, interpretive panels about the cultural history of the grand hotels, such as the Catskill Mountain House, have been installed at North-South Lake Campground.

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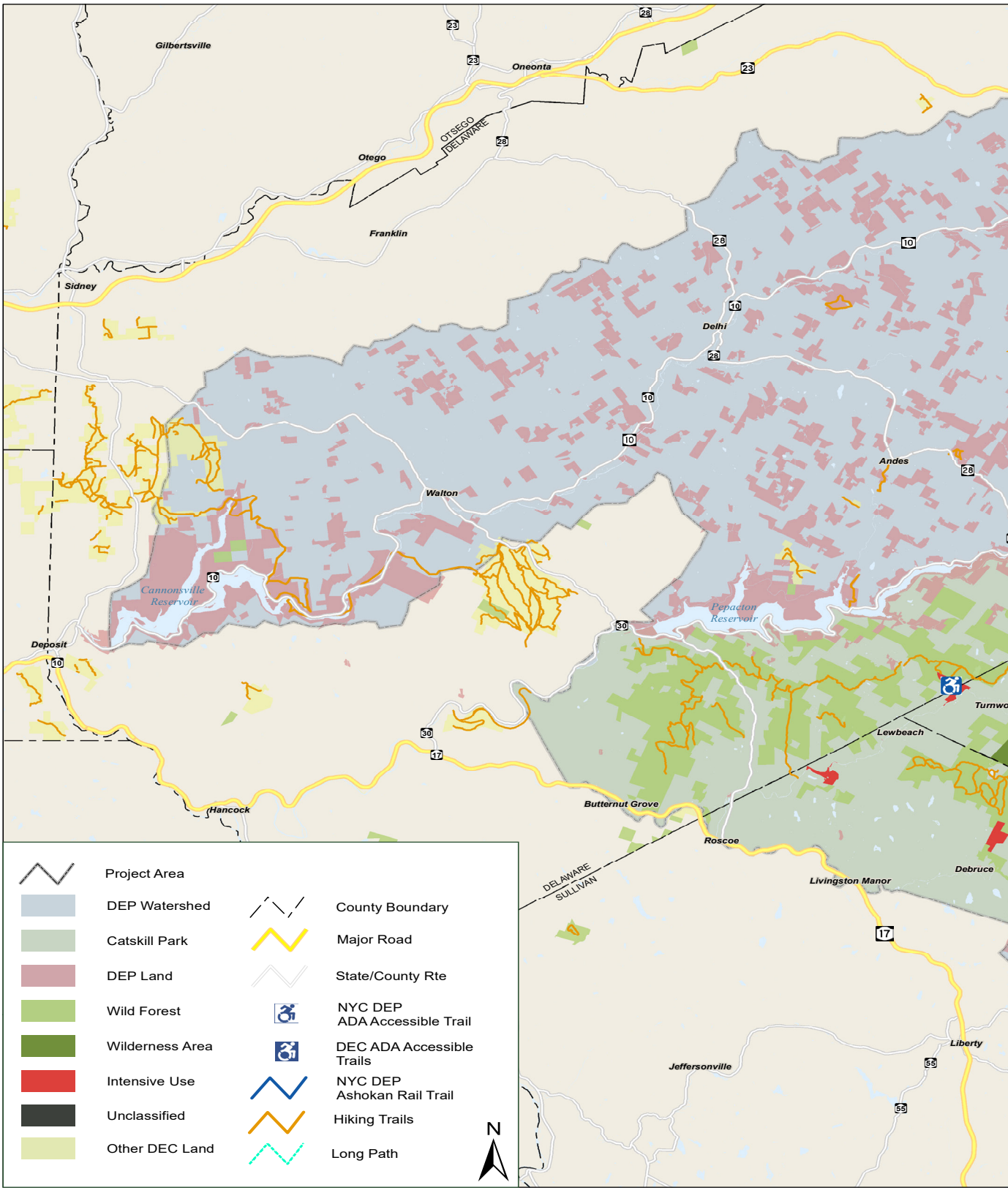
[9]New York State Open Space Conservation Plan (2016). NYSDEC. <https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/osp2016final1.pdf>

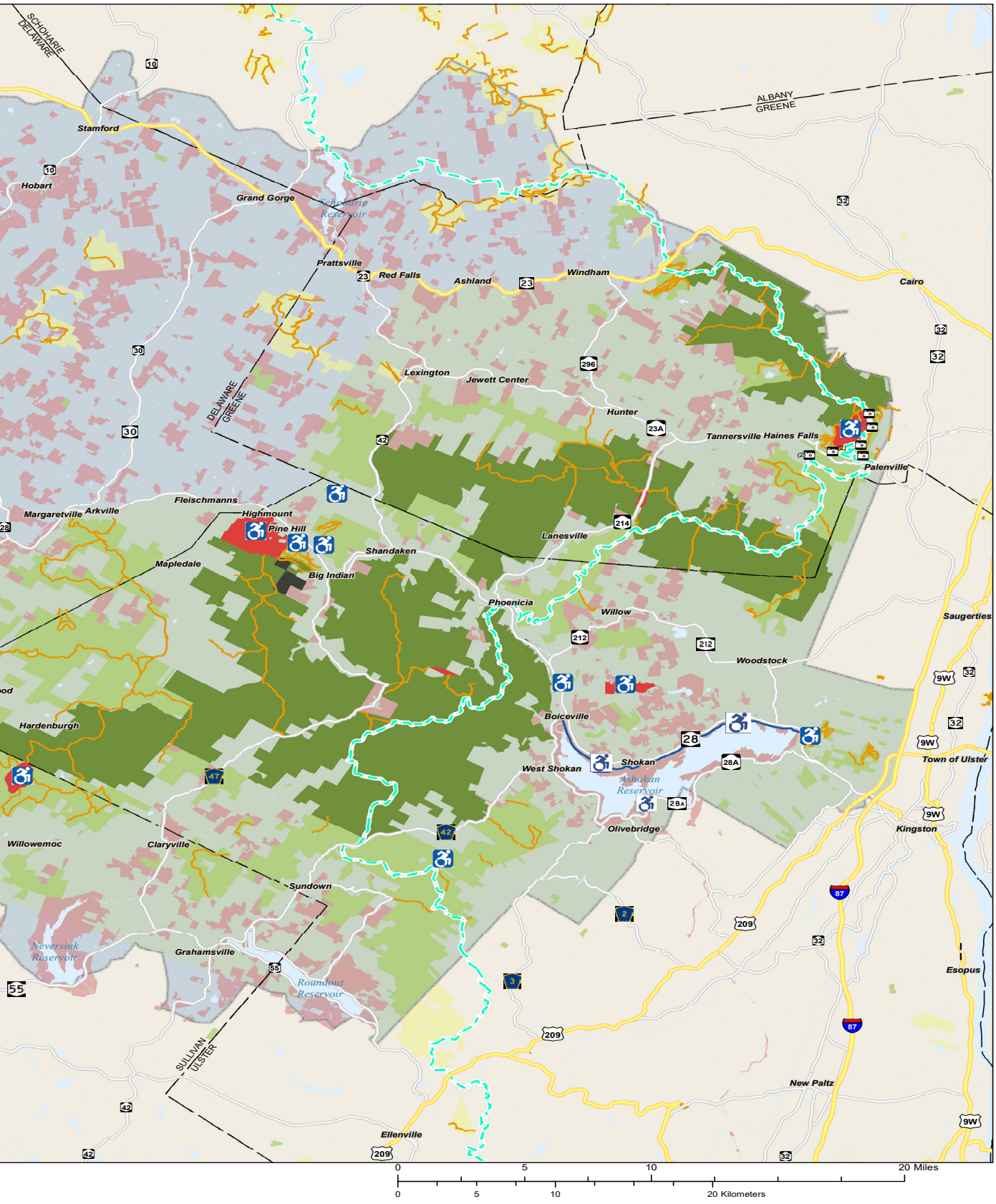
[10]Most cities and counties have historically prohibited all motorized vehicles on trails and greenways because vehicles designed to operate at high speeds could pose safety issues for non-motorized rail-trail users. In addition, other smaller, gas-powered vehicles like mopeds and go-carts can be disruptive to the experience of non-motorized trail users, and may feel almost as out of place as a car or truck. With the recent proliferation of electric bikes, electric scooters, electric skateboards, and other emerging electric "rideables" that allow people with mobility-related disabilities to access rail-trails, some communities are beginning to consider allowing these lower-speed motorized vehicles on rail-trails. Proponents argue that as long as the vehicle is not out-of-scale with other trail users, the motor is quiet, and the user operates the device at slow speeds, users of electric devices should be permitted to enjoy the trails.

MAP 05: ACCESSIBLE TRAILS (SOURCE: NYSDEC)

ADA Accessible Trails



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation


SCHOHARIE
DELAWARE
ALBANY
GREENE
Stamford
Hobart
Grand Gorge
Schoharie Reservoir
Prattsville
Red Falls
Ashland
Windham
Cairo
Lexington
Jewett Center
Hunter
Tannersville
Haines Falls
Palenville
DELAWARE
GREENE
Fleischmanns
Margaretville
Arkville
Highmount
Pine Hill
Shandaken
Mapledale
Big Indian
Lanesville
Phoenicia
Willow
Saugerties
Woodstock
Hardenburgh
Boiceville
West Shokan
Shokan
Ashokan Reservoir
Olivebridge
Town of Ulster
Kingston
Willowemoc
Claryville
Sundown
Neversink Reservoir
Grahamsville
Roundout Reservoir
Esopus
SULLIVAN
ULSTER
New Paltz
Ellenville
0 5 10 20 Miles
0 5 10 20 Kilometers

PROPOSED
Trail Crossings

Study pedestrian crossing improvements at the following locations:

- Route 28 at Margaretville to Dry Brook Ridge trailhead
- Route 28 at Boiceville to the Ashokan Rail Trail and angler parking lot along Route 28 A
- Route 28 near the Visitor Center
- Route 28 near Olive Plaza in Olive to the Ashokan Rail Trail
- Route 28 near Basin Road in West Hurley to the Ashokan Rail Trail
- Route 23 near the Escarpment Trailhead parking lot
- Route 23A through Kaaterskill Clove
- Route 214 near the Devil's Path Trailhead

Responsible Agencies: NYDOT, local communities

Another barrier to connectivity is trail crossings. Crossing issues come in a wide variety and each presents unique safety concerns. Broadly defined, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities categorizes at-grade trail corssing issues into three categories:

Midblock Crossing - This type of crossing is the simplest and the most common, involving a trail crossing a roadway or rail corridor with no available intersection crossing within the immediate vincinity. Midblock trail crossings can be perpendicular to a roadway or can intersect a road at a skewed angle. Skewed crossings usually require a swerve in the trail path so that the trail crossing is perpendicular to the roadway.

Adjacent Path Crossings - This type of crossing occurs when a trail that is running parallel to a roadway at an existing intersection. Appropriate signage, traffic signals, and sight distance can all play an importatnt role in alleviating potential conflicts between trail users and motorists.

Complex Crossings - These are on-standard crossings that don't fit neatly into the first two catergories. They typically have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Universal Access

Develop a universal access plan to set design standards for the region and to prioritize accessibility projects. Projects to consider include:

- Visitor Center volunteer training on accessibility needs to help provide visitors with the best available information for their trip
- Dedicated braille trail at Murphy Hill
- Improved advanced signage and additional accessible parking at the Laurel House lot
- Support accessible trails at the planned Water Discovery Center

Responisble Agency: All partner agencies

Support Rail-Trails

Support planned and ongoing rail-trail projects through incorporation into mapping and by working with local communities when the alignment traverses partner agency land (e.g., Andes Rail Trail, Ashokan Rail Trail, Catskill Mt. Rail Trail, Catskill Scenic Trail, Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Kaaterskill Rail Trail, O&W Rail Trail, Town of Shawangunk Rail Trail, Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail, Wallkill Valley Rail Trail).

Responisble Agency: All partner agencies

Ashokan Rail Trail

Create a trail spur from the Rail Trail's proposed Boiceville Traihead Parking Lot to the Catskills Visitor Center. This might best be accomplished by adding bicycle lanes on Route 28A from the Trailhead to Route 28, and could be implemented in the planned highway improvements to the 28A bridge over the Esopus and related intersection realignment with Route 28.

Continue development of the Ashokan Rail Trail corridor from West Hurley to Kingston via the historic railroad bed and through on-road connections, where necessary. In addition, create a trail spur from Onteora Lake (Bluestone Wild Forest) to the Ashokan Rail Trail via Town of Woodstock land and Zena Road. This proposed trail extension would connect a popular mountain biking opportunity to the rail trail, making it easier to access.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC

Mt. Biking Trails

GAPS & STRATEGIES

The Greater Catskill Region is home to several popular ski resorts that offer a range of year-round activities, including downhill skiing and snowboarding trails. Belleayre Ski Center in Highmount is located approximately three hours north of New York City and is operated by the New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA). ORDA was originally created by the State to manage and promote the sports facilities used to host the 1980 Olympic Winter Games, and it took over operations of the Belleayre Ski Center from NYSDEC in 2012.

Hunter Mountain is, located in Hunter, offers downhill skiing, ziplining, festivals, fly fishing, ATV routes, and hiking.

Windham Mountain Resort is located in Windham and offers downhill skiing, golf, large events, and summer camp programs.

Plattekill Mountain is located in Roxbury and offers downhill skiing, large events, concerts, and yoga.

In the summer, Plattekill Mountain, Belleayre Mountain, and Windham Mountain turn into mountain bike parks. One of the premiere mountain biking events in the country, the UCI World Cup, is hosted in Windham in August.

In addition to mountain biking at ski resorts, bicycling is permitted on multi-use trails and some State-owned trails. Currently, there are over 100 miles of bicycle trails in the Greater Catskill Region, including the Elm Ridge Trail System (Elm Ridge Wild Forest), Jockey Hill-Wintergreen Ridge Trail (Bluestone Wild Forest), Round Top Trail Network, Tannersville-Hathaway Trail System, and Kenneth L. Wilson Campground.

Clusters of existing trails that permit bicycling can be found around the Ashokan Rail Trail, Tannersville, and Windham.

Table 14: Authorized Uses by Designated Facility

		Allowed Use				
		Hiking*	Bicycling	Horseback Riding	Cross-country Skiing	Snowmobiling
NYSDEC Trail‡‡	Foot Trail	X	X‡	-	X	-
	Bicycle Trail	X	X	X	X	-
	Cross-country Ski Trail	X	X‡	X††	X	-
	Snowmobile Trail	X	X††,‡	X††	X	X†
	Equestrian Trail	X	-	X	X	-
NYC DEP Trail	Hiking Areas**	X	-	-	X	***

†*Only when covered with snow*

††*Only when covered with snow or ice*

‡*Not in wilderness*

‡‡*Source: 2008 Catskill Park Sate Land Master Plan (p.18)*

‡‡‡*Source: Rules for the Recreational Use of Water Supply Lands and Waters*

** Includes walking, running, snowshoeing, bird watching, nature observation, and photography*

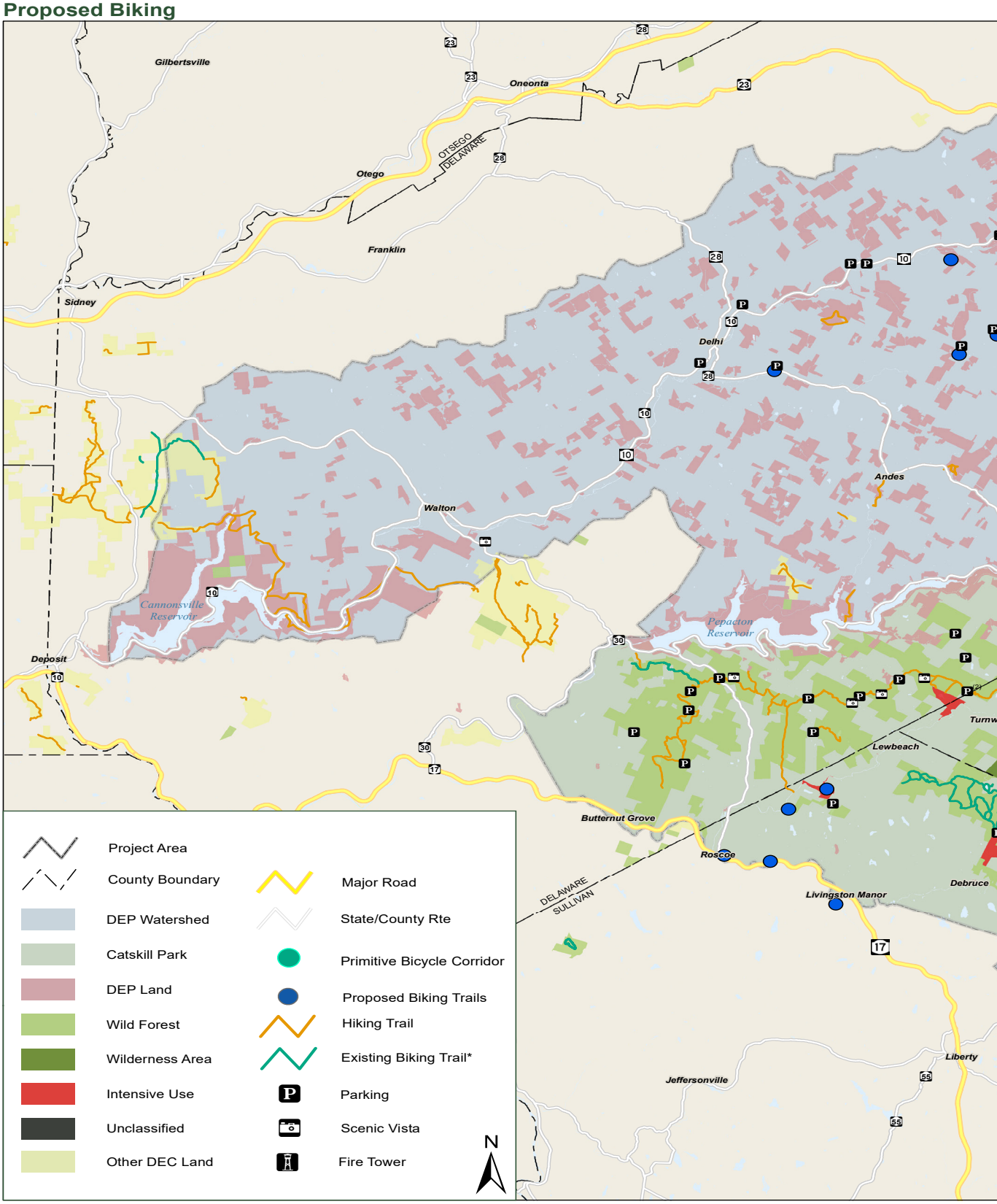
*** Except as posted by signage*

Bicycling as an allowed use on State-owned land is relatively new, and the development of **primitive bicycle corridor** classifications was a result of extensive public feedback during the *Catskill Park State Land Master Plan* process. Primitive bicycle corridors are not maintained as bike trails and present a challenging wilderness experience. Existing primitive bicycle corridors are Mink Hollow Primitive Bicycle Corridor (Indian Head Wilderness), Diamond Notch Primitive Bicycle Corridor (Hunter-Westkill Wilderness), Overlook Turnpike Primitive Bicycle Corridor (Indian Head Wilderness), and Dutcher Notch/Colgate Lake Primitive Bicycle Corridor (Windham-Blackhead Range Wilderness).

Mountain biking is not permitted on City-owned land, except in select, designated areas along decommissioned roads and railroad beds.

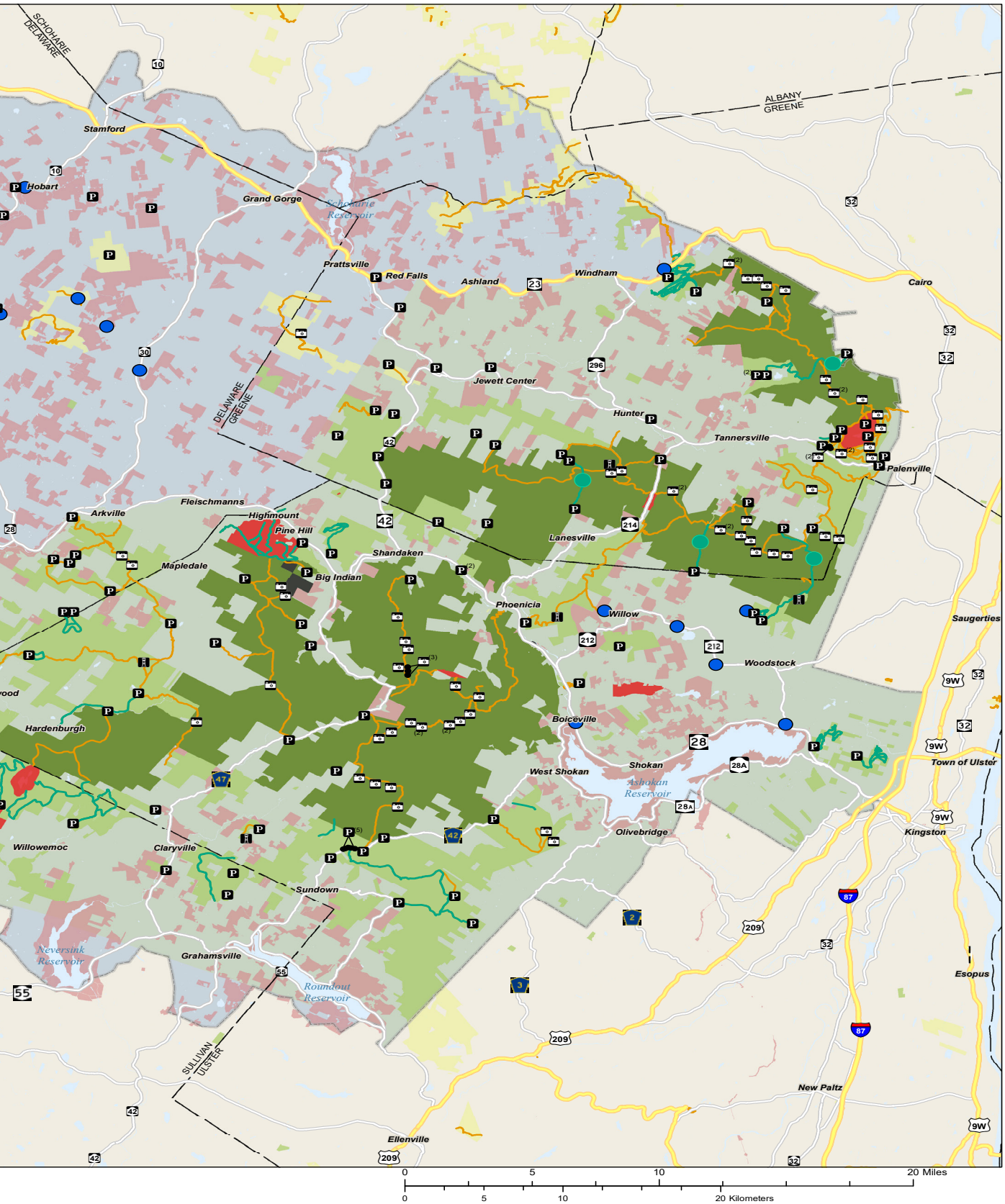
MAP 08: MT. BIKING TRAILS (SOURCE: NYSDEC)

Proposed Biking



Department of Environmental Conservation

* Biking trails located on Primitive Bicycle Corridors are only recommended for expert riders


SCHOHARIE
DELAWARE
ALBANY
GREENE
Stamford
Hobart
Grand Gorge
Schoharie Reservoir
Prattsville
Red Falls
Ashland
Windham
Cairo
Jewett Center
Hunter
Tannersville
Palenville
DELAWARE
GREENE
Fleischmanns
Arkville
Highmount
Pine Hill
Shandaken
Lanesville
Mapledale
Big Indian
Phoenicia
Willow
Saugerties
Woodstock
Hardenburgh
Boiceville
West Shokan
Shokan
Ashokan Reservoir
Town of Ulster
Olivebridge
Kingston
Willowemoc
Claryville
Sundown
Neversink Reservoir
Grahamsville
Roundout Reservoir
Esopus
New Paltz
SULLIVAN
ULSTER
Ellenville
0 5 10 20 Miles
0 5 10 20 Kilometers

Courtesy of: Heather Phelps-Lipton for Catskill Center

Mt. Biking Trails

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Opportunities should be explored to close gaps between existing popular mountain biking trail systems, such as connecting trails at Onteora Lake and Jockey Hill, through additional bike trails, rail-trail, or an on-road network. Additional opportunities for future, expanded mt. bike trail development should be investigated on wild forest lands with relatively gentle terrain, an abundance of old roads, and light use by hikers. Attention should be focused on wild forest areas in Delaware and Sullivan counties and could include:

- Bluestone Wild Forest – Old quarry roads and new connectors could be used to create new loops
- Willowemoc Wild Forest – Frick Pond trail system, existing wide trails on wood roads
- Sundown Wild Forest –Roads near Vernooy Kill Falls
- Mt. Hayden State Forest

Recommended bike trail trails from the 2018 *Shandaken-Belleayre Mountain Bike and Cross Country Ski Trail System Concept Plan* include:

- **Phase 1A**: Develop overall cross-country bike/ski connectivity between Discovery Lodge and Lost Clove using Trail J connection, Powerhouse Trail, then over to Lost Clove with the most direct connection possible.
- **Phase 1B**: Develop Summit XC Ski Loop.
- **Phase 2**: Improve and build out Intensive Use Area trails, such as the mid-mountain single track trails, Cathedral Ridge Trail, and Cathedral Glen. Develop connection from Bonnie View Avenue to bottom of Cathedral Glen.
- **Phase 3**: Develop alternative and parallel return routes to Phase 1A to create loop options and alternative return routes, where feasible.
- **Phase 4**: Improve/develop Woodchuck Hollow Trail and the Pine Hill Day Use Access area.
- **Phase 5**: Provide and improve additional loop options, such as Winding Mountain Road and Woodchuck Hollow.

Study the potential for expanded mt. biking access through additional land acquisition in Blue Stone Wild Forest, Campbell Mountain Wild Forest, Willowemoc Wild Forest, and Sundown Wild Forest.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Trail Ratings

GAPS & STRATEGIES

A critical piece of information for planning a trip to the Greater Catskill Region is the level of difficulty associated with each trail system. Currently, hikers can locate information on trail difficulty through:

- New York-New Jersey Trail Conference – Their online tool allows hikers to sort trails by experience (hike, park, and destination), route type (shuttle, circuit, lollipop, and out and back), travel mode (hiking, mt. biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and wheelchair accessible), trail length, known features along the route (i.e., waterfalls, cultural sites, swimming holes, etc.), and a six-level ranking of the trail difficulty (easy to very strenuous). The tool contains a large number of trails in the region but is not comprehensive and only shows a select number of trailheads.
- TrailKeeper – This Sullivan County project was developed with financial assistance from the Upper Delaware Council and provides trail descriptions and difficulty ratings for hikes within Sullivan County. The trail difficulty ratings operate on a four-level system of easy, moderate, strenuous, and very strenuous. The online tool also serves as a way to help educate visitors about safe trail use, environmental stewardship, and trail conditions.
- Catskills Visitor Center (CVC) website – This webpage operated by the CVC provides regular updates on trail conditions, local weather forecasts, safety warnings, and environmental stewardship messaging.

Being able to view a comprehensive assessment of trails, including grade change, pitch, average width, amenities (benches, water refilling stations, toilets, etc.), surface conditions, and distance from a populated area can help inform a trail user of the necessary equipment and ability level required to complete the hike. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PADCNR) uses the National Trail Difficulty Rating system and classifies trails on a three-level range between "easiest", "more difficult", and "most difficult". Documented in *Pennsylvania Trail Design & Development Principles*, a description of each rating is below:

Easiest – Suitable for beginning trail users and those who do not have the skill or desire to use "more difficult" trails. These trails have a low level of risk for the user and consequently offer less variety than those of greater difficulty. The layout of these routes is appropriate for novice to advanced users and generally follow obvious, well-marked routes. Grades are gentle and few obstacles should be encountered. They require little skill and entail little physical challenge. The tread should be smooth, level, and wide, with generous clearing of trees, limbs, and other vegetation above and to each side of the trial to permit easy passage. Elevation gain or loss is minimal, and most stream crossings have bridges at this level of difficulty.

More Difficult – Designed to meet the expectations of the majority of trail users, these trails require skills beyond that of a novice and at times should challenge the average trail user. These routes are appropriate for intermediate to advanced users. Terrain may be steeper, trails narrower, and some obstacles may be encountered. The tread surface can contain roots and embedded rocks. Elevation gain or loss is moderate, and most streams are crossed with fords.

Most Difficult – Designed for trail users with advanced skill, who are seeking a higher risk level. Only advanced to expert users should attempt these routes. The design incorporates steep terrain, and route with few marks. Trail users should have considerable skill in their chosen activity, as well as knowledge of navigation and survival before attempting these trails.

PROPOSED

Conduct Trail Rating Assessment

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC, Catskill Center (at Visitor Center, and NYC DEP)

Adopt the PADCNR's approach to trail ratings. Use existing trail data available from NYSDEC, NJ-NY Trail Conference, and Sullivan County to establish a baseline, and then work with trusted trail user groups to complete the assessment of trails, prioritizing the most popular trails. Note opportunities to improve the accessibility of trails during the assessment. Upload the completed assessment to the NYS GIS Clearinghouse so that others can access the data and develop maps using the trail ratings.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Courtesy of: Timothy Cox

Courtesy of: NYSDEC File Photo

Shelter Section —

This section contains:

93 Camping & Hut-to-Hut

Camping & Hut-to-Hut

GAPS

As the number of multi-day recreational opportunities in the region increases through the availability of new and better-connected trails, so too will the demand for accommodations. The Business Council of New York State, Inc. lists lodging as one of the primary services needed to support trail users,[1] and a 2014 study of a trail network in Michigan found two-thirds of visitors participating in events related to the trail network stayed in a hotel, motel, bed and breakfast, or resort during their trip, with accommodations representing approximately 36% of the visitor's total travel expenditures.[2] The Elroy-Sparta State Park Trail system in Wisconsin is in such high demand that the average trail user travels 228 miles to get to it, and hotels are sold out a year in advance for the area's peak season.[1]

Because of this, resorts and larger accommodation providers are increasingly seeing recreational facilities as a means of attracting customers. According to a 2010 research study, 40% of hospitality managers indicated that they were ready to make recreation-based structural improvements.[3] The Hotel Hershey in Pennsylvania recently built a series of hiking and bridle trails around their facility, ranging from the more difficult 3-mile loop to a shorter nature trail and "Kiss Path",[4] Walt Disney World Resort offers multiple jogging paths for visitors, and the Woodstock Inn & Resort in Vermont partnered with Sinuosity to construct six miles of downhill mountain bike trails, two pump tracks, a skills development area, and a two-mile cross country trail.

Although the Greater Catskill Region has seen growth in the number of visitors in recent years,[5,6] this has not translated into more establishments offering accommodations and greater employment in the accommodation and food service industry. According to the US Economic Census, sales in the accommodation and food services industry grew 13% in the region between 2007 and 2012 (from $574 million to $651 million per year). However, the number of available accommodations shrank by 12% (from 169 to 149 establishments)[7] and the number of paid employees in the industry and campground usage remained stagnate over the same time period (decreased 0.3% according to NYSDEC campground data).[6,8]

While this discrepancy may be in part a lag in the market following the United States' 2007 economic recession, another factor may be the growth in the number of short-term vacation rentals in the region. According to the Hudson Valley Magazine, the number of available short-term vacation rentals in the area have increased dramatically through Airbnb. The online peer-to-peer company reports that in just Ulster County alone there are 1,600 properties listed that hosted 58,600 guests in the summer of 2018, a 33% increase compared to the summer of 2017.[9]

Overall, Airbnb reports that searches of short-term rentals in the region increased 130% from 2017 to 2018, and bookings doubled over that same time period.[10] This explosion in short-term rentals has resulted in extra income for local property owners and helped fill gaps in the accommodation industry. However, it has made tracking the supply of available accommodations difficult and has also raised questions about unfair competition with existing hotels and motels,[11] as well as the housing market. A 4,000-person survey conducted by Morgan Stanley in 2015 found that 36% of Airbnb users would have stayed at a bed and breakfast if Airbnb properties were not available, 31% would have stayed with friends or family, and 20% would have stayed at another short-term rental.[12] To correct for this imbalance, counties within the region have begun to regulate the short-term rental market. Delaware County and Sullivan County have joined 28 other counties in New York in taxing rentals on Airbnb (2% and 5%, respectively).[13] The vast majority of tax proceeds are reinvested into the tourism industry through promotion services.[14,15]

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[1]"Greenways & Trails: Bringing Economic Benefits to New York," The Business Council of New York State, Inc.

[2]Smith, S.B. and A. Tisdale (2014). "Non-motorized Use of the Vasa Pathway: A Case Study of Economic Impacts," Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails and Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

[3]Wisnom, M (2013). "Resort Recreation Amenity Report," Journal of Tourism Insights. Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 1.

[4]Adams, CJ. "A Day Away: At Hotel Hershey, Even the Grounds are Grand," Reading Eagle. June 19, 2018.

[5]Davis, LS. "A New Generation of Hoteliers Revives Catskills Tourism," Curbed, June 26, 2018.

[6]US Economic Census, American FactFinder, Tables EC0772A1 and EC1272A1: Accommodation and Food Services: Geographic Area Series (2007 and 2012).

[7]The full decline in the number of establishments offering accommodations was borne by hotels and motels, with no reported decline in the number of RV parks and campgrounds between 2007 and 2012. US Economic Census, American FactFinder, Tables EC0772A1 and EC1272A1: Accommodation and Food Services: Geographic Area Series (2007 and 2012).

[8]According to Oxford Economics, Sullivan County visitor spending increased from $388.3 million in 2015 to $419.2 million in 2016 and $449.7 million in 2017. Similarly, visitor spending in Ulster County increased from $532.0 million in 2015 to $554.2 million in 2016 and $587.0 million in 2017.

Axelrod, D. "Hudson Valley Tourists Spending More Every Year," Times Herald-Record. August 26, 2018.

[9]Sucato, S. "Airbnb Market Expands in the Hudson Valley," Hudson Valley Magazine, September 2018.

[10]Airbnb Reveals the 19 Destinations to Visit in 2019. Airbnb. <https://press.airbnb.com/airbnb-reveals-the-19-destinations-to-visit-in-2019/>

[11]Brooks, P. "Ulster Targets Short-term Rentals," Times Herald-Record. March 22, 2018.

[12]"Internet. Lodging, Leisure, and Hotels," Morgan Stanley. November 15, 2015).

[13]Sullivan County reported $58,000 in revenue generated through its tax on short-term rentals. Additionally, Ulster County hired a firm to document its short-term rental properties listed on Airbnb, VRBO, and other similar online companies to better enforce the county's 2% occupancy tax. "Occupancy Tax Collection and Remittance by Airbnb in New York," Airbnb, accessed 12/09/2018.

Bayne, RJ. "Airbnb Rental Explosion Raises Concerns," Times Herald-Record, May 30, 2017.

Brooks, P. "Ulster Targets Short-term Rentals," Times Herald-Record. March 22, 2018.

[14]Cairns, R. Delaware County passes bed tax law. Watershed Post. November 2015. <http://www.watershedpost.com/2015/bed-tax>

[15]Sullivan County Tourism Promotion Services. Office of the New York State Comptroller. 2013. <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/counties/2014/sullivan.pdf>

Falling outside of the hotel tax requirements is Tentrr, a New York-based online company that connects private landowners with people interested in camping on their land. In addition to commercial insurance, Tentrr provides each campsite with a safari-style tent, an air mattress, picnic table, chairs, a fire pit, camp toilet, and sun shower, which are all built in nearby Oneonta, NY.[16] There are currently 214 campsites listed in New York, with most located in the Greater Catskill Region.[17,18]

While taxes on short-term rentals may steer some visitors back to hotels and motels, newer formal accommodations in the region are also attempting to replicate some of the benefits provided by short-term rentals by connecting the rentals to recreational opportunities and experiences. *Curbed* reports anticipation of new hotel inventory becoming available in the region, including the availability of a tiny house resort in South Cairo that boasts a dog park and connections to swimming, rafting, and kayaking, as well as the development of packaged experiences with local farms, distilleries, and transportation providers.[19]

Table 15: Authorized Uses by Designated Facility (New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program, 2017 Town Level Assessments, 2017)

Town	Non-permanent Housing as % of Total
Andes	60.4%
Bovina	49.2%
Delhi	13.1%
Hunter	60.2%
Jewett	61.2%
Lexington	55.1%
Neversink	25.8%
Olive	20.7%
Prattsville	41.9%

Table 15 shows the percent of residential properties in select towns within the Plan Area being primarily used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional housing.

[16]Axelrod, D. In tents: Campsite startup growing fast. Pocono Record. May 2018. <https://www.poconorecord.com/entertainmentlife/20180526/in-tents-campsite-startup-growing-fast>
[17]Tentrr.com (accessed: March 2019)
[18]Warmshowers.org offers a free lodging exchange for bicyclists
[19]Davis, LS. "A New Generation of Hoteliers Revives Catskills Tourism," Curbed, June 26, 2018.

To encourage a wider range of users to have access to existing camping on forest preserve land, NYSDEC offers a range of campgrounds, campsites, lean-tos, and picnic areas.[20] Among NYSDEC campgrounds, Beaverkill Campground, Kenneth L. Wilson Campground, Little Pond Campground, Mongaup Pond Campground, and North-South Lake Campground offer accessible camping sites.[21] Camping reservations can be made up to nine months in advance through ReserveAmerica, an online reservation system, and visitors can purchase the Empire Pass, an $80 Annual Day Use Pass which provides unlimited day use vehicle entry access to the previously listed campgrounds with accessible facilities, as well as Bear Spring Mountain Campground and Devils Tombstone Campground. To help visitors decide which campground best suits their needs, NYSDEC virtual tours allow visitors to view 360o panoramic images of popular areas at each of the campgrounds. These campgrounds are developed for trailer and tent use.

In wilderness and wild forest areas, primitive camping is allowed anywhere within the forest preserve as along as the site is below 3,500 feet in elevation (except between Dec. 21 and Mar. 21 when camping is allowed above 3,500 feet) and is at least 150 feet away from the road, the trail, or any water source. At locations closer than 150 feet from roads, trails, and water, primitive camping is only allowed at designated sites marked with round, yellow NYSDEC markers. Fires are never permitted above 3,500 feet, except in an emergency. A camping permit is required for stays of more than three consecutive nights at the same place or for groups of ten or more.[22]

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[20]See New York State's Camping Guide (2017) for more information
[21]A volunteer Campground Ambassador program at Kenneth L. Wilson Campground and North-South Lake Campground allows adults to assist campground staff in introducing new campers to NYSDEC facilities and other outdoor activities. Campground Ambassadors meet families in the First-time Camper Weekend program at their campsite and help them set up their provided family tent, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, camp chairs, camp stove, lantern, and firewood.
[22]See NYSDEC's primitive camping webpage for more information

CAMPING STRATEGIES

Other communities across the country are responding to a shift towards more on-demand accommodations and the desire for a more diverse set of amenities through their camping experiences and turned to upscale camping and equipment rentals to accommodate visitor expectations.

Upscale camping: True North Basecamp lies in the heart of Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area about 100 miles north of Minneapolis. In addition to 33 campsites, the campground offers six small cabins positioned along the waterfront. Each of the 275-square-foot cabins are fairly minimal in their amenities with bunk beds, internet connections, and shelter from the cold Wisconsin weather.[23] The addition of new camper cabins - ranging from those that offer the bare bones essentials like teepees and yurts to more luxurious cottages with bathrooms and kitchens - can be found in and near many national parks, including Yosemite National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Acadia National Park, and Glacier National Park.[24,25]

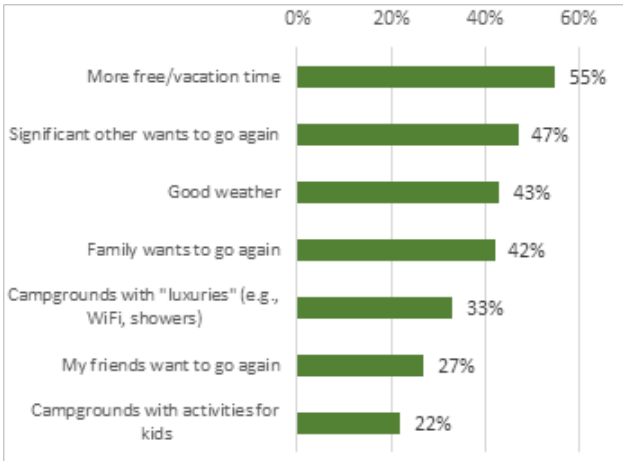
This trend may be a reaction to a change in demographics among campers. A 2018 report sponsored by the Kampgrounds of American (KOA) found that 40% are Millennials and that 25% of new campers choose to stay in cabins instead of tents or RVs (10% said the availability of cabins was the most important factor in selecting a campground). And while camping can be an opportunity to disconnect, KOA found that 93% of campers brought mobile devices with them while camping (about one-third report bringing a smartphone for safety purposes). Among Millennial campers, 27% said that being able to share photos and video of their trip on social media while camping was important to them.[24]

That said, 52% of Millennials indicated that technology detracted from their overall enjoyment while camping. This suggests that while the intrusion of technology may be unwelcomed, many Millennials find it a necessary part of the camping experience. KOA reports that 4-in-10 camper households say that access to cell service and Wi-Fi impacts how frequently and how long they camp and that among this group, increased access to technology has helped them enjoy an average of four additional days of camping per year. 17% of campers said that access to free Wi-Fi was among the top five most important factors when selecting a campground and 7% said it was the most important factor.[26]

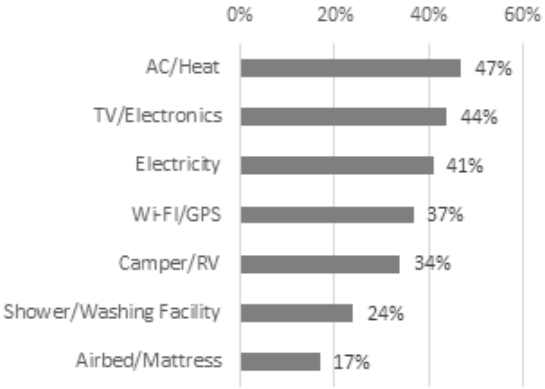
While Wi-Fi is still uncommon at inn-to-inn tours described in the Trail Towns section, the Appalachian Mountain Club offers free internet access at their family-friendly Highland Center Lodge. Private cabins/tents that offer Wi-Fi in the plan area can be located on GlampingHub.com.

Equipment rentals: Being able to minimize the overall expense of recreation equipment may help encourage more people to recreate outside. A 2018 study by The Outdoor Foundation found that the cost of equipment was the second largest constraint preventing Americans from recreating outside.[27]

Motivations for Camping in the Future
(Outdoor Foundation, 2017)



Favorite Camping Gear Luxuries
(Outdoor Foundation, 2017)



The William O'Brien State Park camp ground in St. Croix, MN, serves as a library for outdoor recreation equipment, including big-ticket items like canoes, kayaks, snowshoes, and GPS units and smaller items like fishing poles, tackle boxes, birding kits, horseshoes, volleyballs, soccer balls, and bocce balls. The equipment is free, and adults can check it out from the park office.

One of the most popular trends in equipment rentals is the availability of bicycles. Bear Run Campground in Moraine State Park, PA, connects to 7 miles of multi-use trails. To support access to the trails, the park offers bicycle rentals. In addition to a bicycle (including single, multi-geared, and tandem bikes), visitors can check out tag-a-longs/child pull-behind trailers, child seats, and helmets, helping to minimize the amount of equipment that visitors have to bring with them to enjoy the trails.

[23]Minnesota Stake Parks and Trails communication and outreach manager, Pat Arndt, reported that the state has added eight yurts at three state parks and reservations for the facilities fill up fast. Whitetail Woods Regional Park in Minnesota also recently added three camper cabins, and Dakota County Parks say they are so popular that they are booked a year and a half in advance. Dakota County Parks plans to build an additional 20 camper cabins, and have modified their amenities, including offering Wi-Fi access and upgrading electrical hookups at campsites. Adler, E. "With Yurts, Campers and Wi-Fi, Millennials Fuel Minnesota Camping Boom," AJC. July 28, 2017.

[24]Repanshek, K. "Upscale Cabins Latest Trend in Commercial Campgrounds Bordering National Parks," National Parks Traveler. July 9, 2010.

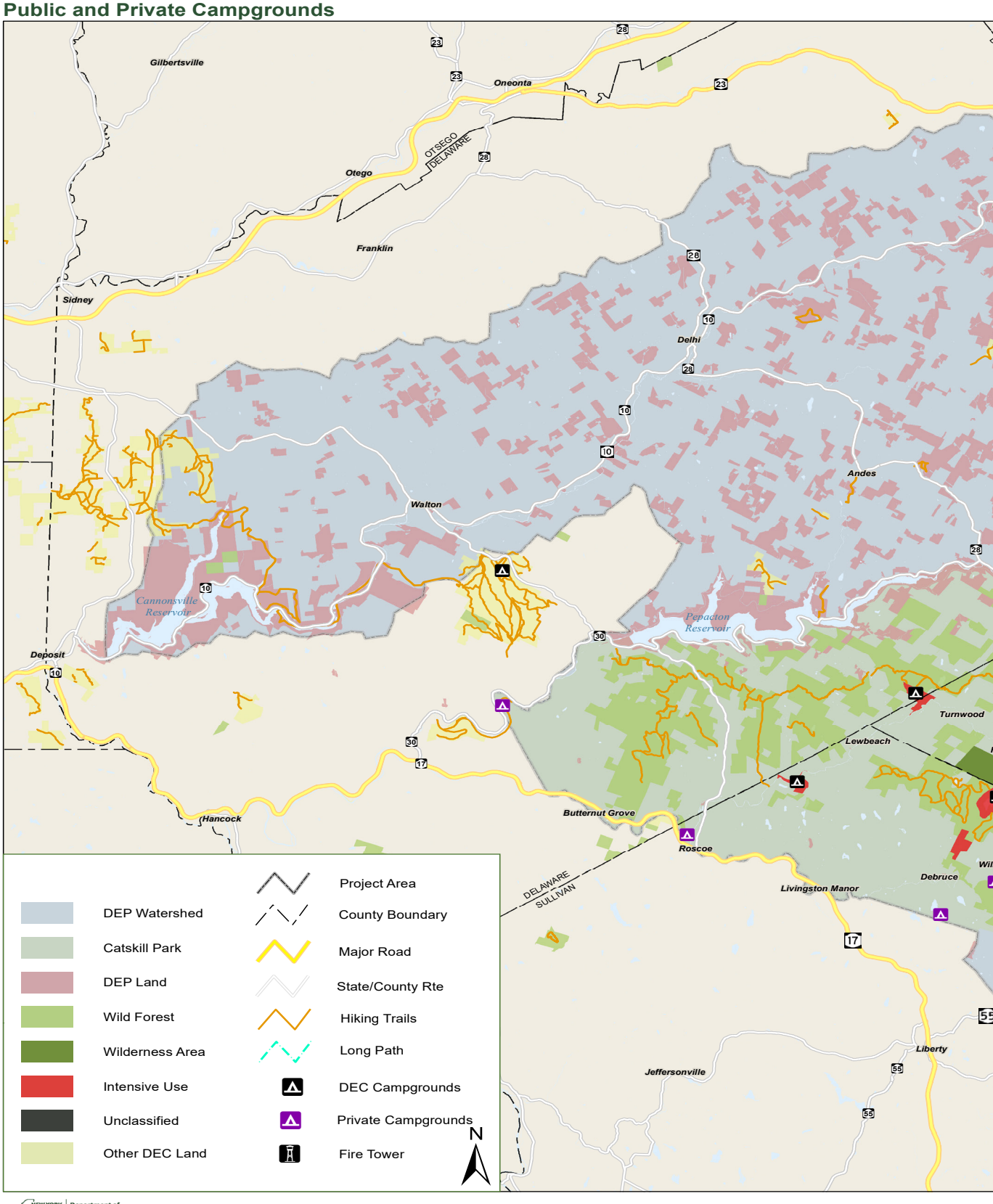
[25]The Ithaca-based Firelight Camps previously attempted to open a second 'glampground' in Sullivan County.

[26]"2018 North American Camping Report," and "2017 American Camper Report," Kampgrounds of America, Inc.

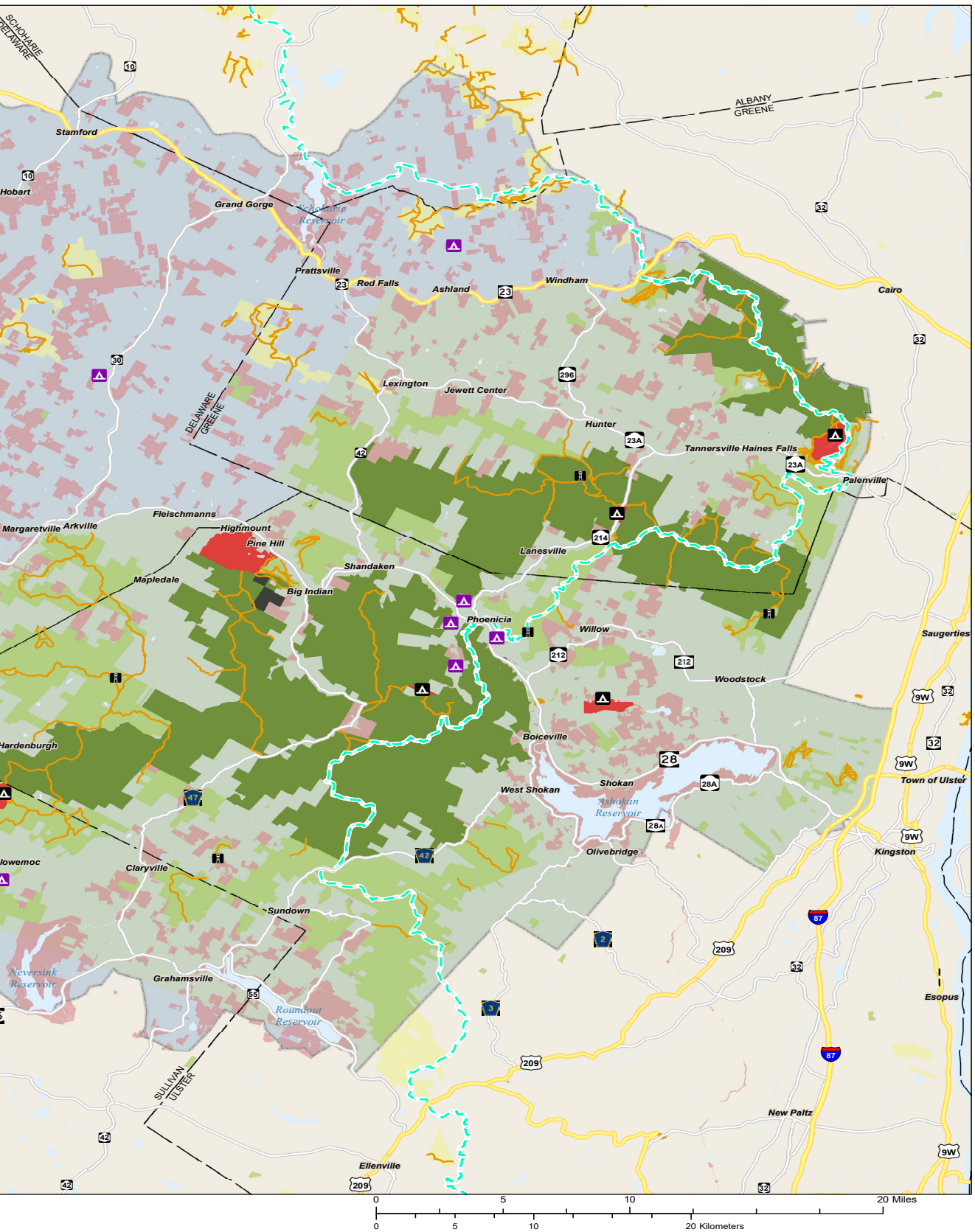
[27]Outdoor Participation Report (2018). The Outdoor Foundation. <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2018-outdoor-participation-report/>

MAP 09: CAMPING (SOURCE: NYSDEC)

Public and Private Campgrounds



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Environmental Conservation


SCHOHARIE
DELAWARE
ALBANY
GREENE
Stamford
Hobart
Grand Gorge
Schoharie Reservoir
Prattsville
Red Falls
Ashland
Windham
Cairo
Lexington
Jewett Center
Hunter
Tannersville
Haines Falls
Palenville
DELAWARE
GREENE
Fleischmanns
Margaretville
Arkville
Highmount
Pine Hill
Lanesville
Shandaken
Mapledale
Big Indian
Phoenicia
Willow
Saugerties
Woodstock
Hardenburgh
Boiceville
Shokan
West Shokan
Ashokan Reservoir
Town of Ulster
Olivebridge
Kingston
Clarysville
Sundown
Neversink Reservoir
Grahamsville
Roundout Reservoir
Esopus
SULLIVAN
ULSTER
New Paltz
Ellenville
0 5 10 20 Miles
0 5 10 20 Kilometers

HUT-TO-HUT STRATEGIES

Development of trail systems that connect to towns and provide a range of activities may encourage visitors to stay in the region longer and spend more per visit. Below is a list of best practices for encouraging connectivity between trails and nearby towns.

Inn-to-Inn tours, also known as "hut-to-hut" trail networks, planned visitor routes have been a European staple for centuries.[28,29] In more recent years, the concept has gained steam in the United States and is built around an extended trail that has evenly-spaced amenities that allow a hiker to access campsites or formal accommodations and food during each night of the trip. Popular inn-to-inn tours in the US include:

Vermont Inn-to-Inn Walking Tour – This four-day self-guided walking tour runs approximately 10 miles between the southern Vermont villages of Chester, Weston, Ludlow, and Simonsville near the Green Mountain National Forest. Developed and maintained by the four innkeepers of Inn Victoria, Old Town Farm Inn, Combes Family Inn, and Rowell's Inn, they sherpa your bags between the inns, supply travelers with maps and snacks, and greet you at each stop with a home-cooked meal.[30] The tour is ideal for older adults looking to hike at a relaxed pace and along gradual inclines.

Rocky Mountain National Park Lodge Tour – Footpaths of the World, a private tour company, offers four-day guided and self-guided hikes along the "Walter Tishma Way" in Rocky Mountain National Park. Starting in Estes Park, Colorado, each day of the tour includes approximately 7 to 10 miles of off-road hiking (luggage transfer included) and is bookended with gourmet meals at a bed and breakfast.

White Mountain Lodge-to-Huts Trips – The Appalachian Mountain Club's organized trips in the White Mountain region of New Hampshire begin at a frontcountry lodge and continue along the Appalachian Trail with nightly stop-overs at off-the-grid huts. Each hut offers a co-ed bunkroom, separate bathrooms with running water, breakfast buffet, and family-style dinner. Hikers, people snowshoeing, and cross-country skiers are transported from the huts to the trailhead by a shuttle van or can opt to take a hut access trail. The trips are marketed to a wide range of abilities and interests, including families, older adults, and people with dogs, and can be combined with guided hike/stay combinations and themed weekends.[31]

Adirondack Hamlets to Huts – In 2014, a NYSDEC grant funded the *Conceptual Plan for a Hut-to-Hut Destination-based Trail System for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson.*[32] Guided routes were piloted in 2018, and the Adirondack Hamlets to Huts non-profit hopes to be fully operational in 2019. Unlike the other inn-to-inn tours described above, the routes use one of 59 potential circuits that all begin at a town, allow participants to hike, bicycle, paddle, snowshoe, or cross-country ski the route, and end back at the same town from which they started.

Consistent themes among inn-to-inn tours are minimizing the workload of travelers (providing luggage transfer and meals), keeping the distance between stops relatively short (3 to 10 miles), encouraging social interactions among groups of guests, and allowing for variation and exploration within each tour.

[28]European Historic Thermal Towns Association.
[29]Spain: Walking the Camino de Santiago. National Geographic.
[30]Graves, A. Inn-to-Inn Walking Tour in Vermont. Yankee. May 2014. <https://newengland.com/yankee-magazine/travel/vermont/inn-walking-tour-vermont/>
[31]Downes, M. Renewed and reconnected on a N.H. mountain peak. Boston Globe. October 2016. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/travel/2016/10/20/renewed-and-reconnected-mountain-peak/EyVtcwWInTguFAZAt5Mx6K/story.html>
[32]An updated Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System report was completed in 2017 for NYSDEC.

Courtesy of: Catskill Center - Heather Phelps-Lipton

PROPOSED

1st Time Camper

Complete evaluation of first-time camper program pilot and compare to other existing programs around the country. Using feedback from the evaluation, consider expanding the program to other campgrounds within the Plan Area.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Equipment Rental

Expand equipment rental availability at campgrounds to bicycle rentals, fishing poles, snowshoes, GPS units, and birding kits to encourage campground usage and reduce the need for visitors to carry personal equipment with them to the campground.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Tent Share

Develop model zoning language for peer-to-peer tent sharing services and provide assistance in adoption. Encourage peer-to-peer tent sharing along pilot hut-to-hut system along Finger Lakes Trail.

Responsible Agency: CWC

Camp Amenities

Develop marketing materials to promote campground amenities (e.g., showers, washer/dryer) to long-distance hikers and consider reduced fee for people entering campgrounds by foot.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Pilot Hut-to-Hut System

NYS DEC would support a pilot hut-to-hut trail system along the Finger Lakes Trail (and part of the Long Path). With support of the private sector a combination of lodging on private land and campsites on public land could be developed to provide a long distance hut-to-hut experience. Consider the following alignment with 7 to 14 mile intervals:

1. Napanoch to Trails End Primitive Campsite
2. Trails End Primitive Campsite to East Branch Neversink Campsite
3. East Branch Neversink Campsite to Claryville
4. Claryville to Balsam Lake Mountain Lean-to
5. Balsam Lake Mountain Lean-to to Little Pond/Big Pond
6. Little Pond/Big Pond to [gap in system: proposed primitive campsite]
7. [gap in system: proposed primitive campsite] to Miller Hollow [trail spur needed]
8. Miller Hollow to Bear Spring Mountain
9. Bear Spring Mountain to Walton

Develop primitive campsite between Little Pond/Big Pond and Miller Hollow.

Provide increased trail maintenance along proposed alignment.

Promote trail alignment, track campsite and compare to previous years, and conduct visitor assessments.

Responsible Organizations: NYSDEC, area Tourism Organizations, private lodging establishments.

Courtesy of ScubaBear68 Flickr

Water Section —

This section contains:

109 Fishing, Swimming, & Boating

Fishing, Swimming, & Boating

GAPS & STRATEGIES

General trends in outdoor recreation show declines in most water-based activities over the past decade. Table 16 shows that the only water-based activities that Americans participated more frequently in 2017 than in 2007 were recreational canoeing/kayaking (participation increased 24.5% from 5.3% to 6.6%), boardsailing/windsurfing (participation increased 25.0% from 0.4% to 0.5%), and fly fishing (participation increased 9.5% from 2.1% to 2.3%). While participation in fishing declined over the past decade, it remained the most popular water-based recreational activity, with 16.6% of Americans above the age of six years old having fished within the past year. The second most popular activities were swimming (9.1%) and recreational canoeing/kayaking (6.6%).[1]

These national trends aligned with responses to this Plan's online survey, where the most popular water-based recreational activities were swimming (69% of respondents participated "often" or "sometimes"), fishing (67% of respondents participated "often" or "sometimes"), and non-motorized boating such as canoeing or kayaking (64% of respondents participated "often" or "sometimes").

The global canoeing and kayaking equipment market is expected to continue to grow by 18% between 2017 and 2021, with growing awareness about the health and fitness benefits of the activity helping drive sales,[2] (exercise is the primary motivator in paddlesport participation).[3]

New York State has identified aquatic invasive species as a signifigant threat to waters statewide through the development of the Partnership for Regional Invasice Species Managment (PRISM) and signifigant grant funding for the identification and managment of invastive species. Within the New York City Watershed that threat is heightened, as evidenced by the requirements that the NYCDEP mandates for boating on reservoirs. Water-based recreation in general has the potential to introduce aquatic invasive plants and animals to the region's waters, which must be considered when discussing water-based recreational activities.

Table 16: Water-based Outdoor Recreation Participation among Americans Ages 6+ (Outdoor Foundation, 2018)

	2007 Participation	2010 Participation	2017 Participation		
Boardsailing/ Windsurfing	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%		
Canoeing/Kayaking (recreational)	5.3%	6.0%	6.6%		
Fishing (all)	18.7%	16.0%	16.6%		
Fishing (Fly)	2.1%	1.9%	2.3%		
Fishing (Freshwater/Other)	15.8%	13.7%	12.9%		
Fishing (Saltwater)	5.2%	4.2%	4.4%		
Kayak Fishing	N/A	0.4%	0.9%	N/A	
Rafting	1.6%	1.6%	1.2%		
Snorkeling	3.4%	3.3%	2.8%		
Stand-up Paddle Boarding	N/A	0.4%	1.1%	N/A	
Swimming for Fitness (indoor)	N/A	N/A	9.1%	N/A	N/A
Wakeboarding	1.3%	1.3%	1.0%		
Water Skiing	2.1%	1.7%	1.2%		

** N/A indicates data for the activity was not collected in 2007*

FISHING

Another potential growth area for the region is fishing. In a 2017 Special Report from the Outdoor Foundation and the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, the authors found that, unlike kayakers who experience a large cross-over with hikers and bicyclers,[4] most fishing participants went out solely to fish rather to be part of a bigger activity. The primary motivating factor for people to try fishing was for the purpose of spending time with their families,[5] and a second study found that youths and older adults had a shared interest in fishing.[6] The special report noted that participants with a lifelong love of fishing began fishing at an early age, with 83% of current adult participants being introduced to fishing during childhood. Those who did try fishing during their childhood tended to retain positive memories, while those who didn't fish by the age of 12 were much less likely to ever take up the activity.[5] This may indicate that an opportunity exists to reverse current trends of declining fishing participation by pairing the next generation of anglers with

an older generation of existing anglers. To encourage multigenerational fishing, NYSDEC offers several free-fishing days to children under the age of 16 and discounted or free licenses to senior citizens (70 years of age or older).

Another potential growing market for fishing is among Hispanic Americans. The 2017 Special Report found that participation in fishing among Hispanic Americans increased from 3.4 million in 2015 to 3.8 million in 2016. In addition, the average Hispanic American angler went approximately 6 more fishing outings per year than the typical angler.[9]

While the expense of fishing was not indicated a major obstacle to the enjoyment of fishing, greater access to boats and fishing equipment were identified as resources that would make it easier to fish.[6]

Fishing is allowed on City-owned reservoirs, lakes, and streams as designated by posted signage. Most City-owned reservoirs offer fishing opportunities for warm-water species, such as Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass, as well as cold-water species, such as Trout. City-owned reservoirs are open for fishing from shore and by boat, but anglers 16 years of age and older must have a NYC DEP access permit and a valid New York State fishing license.[7] Free NYC DEP access permits and renewals are available online or by mail.[8] Guest passes are available for those wishing to accompany an access permit holder onto City-owned lands but do not want to obtain their own access permit. The City's Watershed Recreation Area online map shows fishing reservoirs, and individual reservoir maps for anglers can be found on the City's website. In addition, to its reservoirs, NYC DEP also allows fishing from City-owned watershed lands that border trout fishing streams, such as the Batavia Kill, West Branch Delaware River, and Esopus Creek. Ice fishing is not allowed on NYC DEP reservoirs within the plan area.[9]

For forest preserve land, fishing is allowed in season and with a New York State fishing license in all waters. Since 1936, NYSDEC has purchased over 1,200 equivalent miles of public fishing rights on streams throughout the state. These 33-foot wide perpetual easements along stream beds and banks allow the public to walk on the stream beds and banks for the purpose of fishing. "Public Fishing Area" signs along the stream bank mark easement locations. In addition to the easements, the State has purchased small properties to provide parking and access to streams and ponds.

NYSDEC fishing licenses are not required for children under the age of 16 or during free-fishing days in February, June, September, and November when adult license requirements are suspended to help encourage new anglers. Annual licenses are available for $25 ($50 for out-of-state residents), 7-day licenses are available for $12 ($28 for out-of-state residents), and 1-day fishing licenses are available for $5 ($10 for out-of-state residents). Discounted or free

licenses are available for active duty members of the military, disabled military veterans, senior citizens (70 years of age or older), Native Americans of select tribes, full-time nonresident students attending a New York college or university, and persons with a disability.[10]

NYSDEC provides accessible fishing access sites to help encourage fishing among people with physical disabilities. Locations of accessible fishing platforms in the plan area include Allaben (Shandaken Wild Forest), Basher Kill (Bashakill Wildlife Management Area), Colgate Lake (Colgate Lake Wild Forest), Little Pond (Little Pond Campground), Lower Birch Creek Road (Shandaken Wild Forest), Mongaup Pond (Mongaup Pond Campground), Onteora Lake (Bluestone Wild Forest), Peekamoose Valley Camping Area (Sundown Wild Forest), and Waneta Lake (Willowemoc Wild Forest). Currently, there are limited opportunities for accessible boat launches in the plan area.

SWIMMING

The Catskills have limited swimming opportunities. The prominent water bodies in the region supply unfiltered drinking water to NY City and City rules regulate their use. Swimming is not allowed in NYC DEP reservoirs or NYC watershed lands. Swimming is unrestricted on most State-owned lands (except at some beaches, campgrounds, and day use areas where swimming may be restricted to posted hours or when a lifeguard is not on duty). However, few opportunities for swimming exist. Swimming opportunities have been developed on state lands at the following locations:

- *Bear Spring Mountain Campground*
- *Belleayre Beach at Belleayre Mountain Day Use Area*
- *Mongaup Pond Campground*
- *North Lake Beach (North-South Lake Campground)*
- *Little Pond Campground*

BOATING

NYC DEP's recreational boating program does permit canoeing, kayaking, rowboats, and sculls (sailboats are no longer considered an authorized vessel) on Cannonsville, Neversink, Pepacton, and Schoharie reservoirs.[11] Boaters are required to obtain a free NYC DEP access permit and all vessels, paddles, and oars used on the reservoirs must be steam cleaned by one of the NYC DEP-certified Steam Cleaning Vendors to help prevent the spread of invasive plants, animals, and microorganisms. Once the boating equipment is steam cleaned, the vendor provides the boater with either a temporary (valid one to seven days from issuance) or seasonal (valid from May to October) recreational boat tag. Boats that leave the reservoir property must be steam cleaned again before returning to the water. To help reduce the burden of these regulations, CWC oversees a boat rental program, which allows visitors to rent pre-cleaned and registered kayaks and canoes from ten launch sites near the reservoirs. Rental boats are stored on racks alongside the reservoirs to promote easier access for visitors to the region and those who don't own a boat. To help encourage boating among youths, CWC offers a "Catskill Reservoir Paddler" patch for people who paddle any of the four reservoirs.

The *New York State Boater's Guide* serves as a handbook for boating on State-owned lands. Motorized boats are permitted on some NYSDEC water bodies but must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Non-motorized watercraft are also permitted but do not require a registration permit. New aquatic invasive species regulations require boats to be cleaned and drained before they can be launched from or leave a NYSDEC site, and all trailer and other equipment must be visibly free of plant and animal material.[12] Flat water paddling is encouraged at NYSDEC campgrounds, with many offering canoe, kayak, and rowboat rentals. White water paddling is also possible along some rivers and creeks. Reservoir releases can increase water volumes and speeds, and they have been timed in the past with special recreational event requests from the public.

While there are several regulations that apply to boating in the plan area (see Recreation Opportunities section), the Greater Catskill Region offers a wide range of boating opportunities. Kayaking is allowed on the East Brach of the Delaware River and on the Pepacton, Schoharie, Neversink, and Cannonsville reservoirs.[13] Tubing is a popular activity on the relatively calm waters of the Delaware River's West Branch. The region's lakes and ponds offer additional opportunities for kayaking, and the more relaxed regulations allow for stand-up paddle boarding. And the Upper Esopus Creek can provide a venue for moderate whitewater rafting, tubing, or kayaking.

Feedback from the public on non-motorized boating activities in the Plan Area revealed that the logistics associated with renting boating equipment were the greatest barriers to greater participation.[14] NYC DEP's regulations requiring the steam-cleaning of any water vessel entering the City's reservoirs, along with the high cost of the average kayak ($540),[15] make renting a kayak through one of the main vendors an easier option for visitors to the region. However, additional regulations preventing commercial activity on City land[16] requires boat renters to coordinate with a designated vendor to access or transport equipment to the launch site.[17]

Michigan's Huron River Water Trail faced a similar problem in 2015. In a survey about preferred water recreation amenities, survey participants indicated a need for a secure canoe and kayak locker system to store vessels, paddles, and gear.[18] The Mississippi Paddle Share Program presents one approach to providing a remote kayak, paddle, and life vest locker system. Through the placement of self-serve rental stations in Mississippi National River & Recreation Area, users can rent a single or tandem kayak and all the related equipment onsite at a kiosk accessed with passcode. In addition, users can pick the equipment up at a site upstream and drop-off the kayak downstream with no need for a return trip.

[1]Outdoor Participation Report (2018). Outdoor Foundation. <https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/general-documents/2018_outdoor_recreation_part.pdf>
[2]Top 3 Emerging Trends Impacting the Global Canoeing and Kayaking Equipment Market form 2017-2021. Technavio. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170201005565/en/Top-3-Emerging-Trends-Impacting-Global-Canoeing>
[3]Special Report on Paddlesports (2015). The Outdoor Foundation. <https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/General-documents/OIF_PaddlesportsResearch_201.pdf>
[4]Special Report on Paddlesports (2015). The Outdoor Foundation. <https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/General-documents/OIF_PaddlesportsResearch_201.pdf>
[5]Special Report on Fishing (2017). Outdoor Foundation and Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. <https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-Special-Report-on-Fishing_final.pdf>
[6]Outdoor Participation Report (2017). Outdoor Foundation.
[7]NYC DEP's fishing brochure includes a table of principal sport fish species within the City's reservoirs.
[8]Those younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult who has a valid NYC DEP permit and State fishing license.
[9]NYC DEP access permits help the City track and responsibly manage recreation areas. Access permits are comprehensive and allow permit holders to fish, hike, and engage in other authorized uses.
[10]"Ice Free" Fact Sheet. NYC DEP.
[11]From Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day (sunrise to sunset) but subject to change
[12]Two boat cleaning stations exist in the region in Downsville and Walton
[13]See the USGS discharge charts to track the stream levels of the East Branch of the Delaware River: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/uv/?site_no=01413500&PARAmeter_cd=00065,00060>
[14] A lack of signage about available boat launches was also noted as an issue.
[15]Average price of kayaks in the U.S. from 2001 to 2013 (in U.S. dollars). Statista. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/215895/average-price-of-kayaks-in-the-us/>
[16]Prohibited Uses. NYC Parks. <https://www.nycgovparks.org/rules/section-1-04>
[17]As of the publishing of this document, CWC's online interactive map showing boat launch sites and NYC DEP's watershed recreation areas interactive map were not fully functioning for the purpose of identifying boat launch locations.
[18]Riggs, E. Paddlers: Tell us what you want, what you really, really want (2015). Huron Watershed Council. <https://www.hrwc.org/paddlers-tell-us-what-you-want-what-you-really-really-want/>

Courtesy of: Andy Mossey Catskill Center

PROPOSED

Wilson Study

Complete study to determine if swimming can resume at Kenneth L. Wilson Campground.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Cross-Promote

Cross-promote "free fishing days" and free family fishing days NYSDEC and NYC DEP websites.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP

Invasive Species

Continue to research the potential of swimming, fishing and boating to introduce invasive aquatic plant and animal species into Catskill waters. Based on findings, expand existing efforts and implement new measures to reduce the potential for introduction of aquatic invasive species in the region.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

Cluster Accessible Sites

Prioritize development of new univeral access boat launch and accessible fishing platform locations that are near the following facilities:

- Existing accessible parking lots
- Existing accessible trails (e.g., rail-trails and multi-use trails)
- Near visitor centers, kiosks, and private companies that specialize in adaptive outdoor recreation

Includes study of new potential boat launch sites and fishing platforms in proposed universal access plan.

Responsible Agency: NYC DEP

Courtesy of: Catskill Center

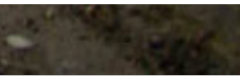
Mobility Section —

This section contains:

121 Auto Access

125 Transit Access

131 On-Road Biking



Auto Access

GAPS

A significant element of the visitor experiences to the plan area is the character of the highway corridors of the region. The gateway entrances to the park and the scenic quality of the roads within the park are central to the visitor's visual appreciation of the landscape and the towns, villages, and hamlets that create its unique character. The Maurice D. Hinchey Catskills Visitor Center is the gateway to the region and visitor center for the Catskill Park. Recently, an outdoor pavilion and an 80 foot fire tower have been erected on the site. Additional planned improvements include creation of a new set of exhibits, a new website and creation of satellite kiosks at potential locations such as the Mountain Top Historic Society in Haines Falls, the new Catskill Watershed Corporation headquarters in Arkville, public campgrounds within the Park and at other key locations. Visitors to the region, whether highway travelers, families looking for a day hike, or seasoned backcountry hikers, would all benefit from gateway information centers at major entrances to the Catskill Park. At these locations, not unlike National Park Service Visitor Centers, interpretive programming, exhibits, and printed information would help orient them to the region and direct them to their desired destinations. Along their routes, the Catskill Park Wayfinding Sign Project, originally conceptualized in the 1999 Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan, helps provide standardized signage that includes the Catskill Park logo and universal icons for recreational activities. The project is funded by the NYSDEC's Smart Growth Implementation Grant Program and CWC, with additional support from NYC DEP, NYS DOT, County Highway Departments and Local Government in the region. Implementation of the program is nearly complete with the installation of signs designed to help visitors feel like they've arrived when they enter the Catskill Park. Completion of the project will help create a clear visual identity for the region. For a list of locations of existing and proposed wayfinding signs along routes 23, 23A, 28, and 30, see the online interactive map at Genius Loci Planning.

A critical part of making trails and lands accessible from highways is providing sufficient parking. Parking areas at trailheads, fishing access sites, and general access parking areas constitute the major access points throughout the region. The partner agencies currently help maintain over 300 paved, unpaved, or accessible parking lots in the plan area. Additional parking needs and solutions are vetted through the unit management planning process.

Whether visitors are out for a drive or on their way to a gateway or trail town, the Greater Catskill Region's scenic roads offer a form of recreation in and of themselves. In 1992, the New York State legislature created the Scenic Byway Program, which includes transportation corridors that contain particular scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic, or archaeological features of statewide or regional significance. These corridors are managed to protect these outstanding features and to encourage economic development through tourism and recreation. An evaluation of the roads within the Catskill Park for potential inclusion in the Scenic Highway Program was undertaken and described in a report entitled "Towards a Scenic Roads Program for the Catskills" published in 1976. The report gave detailed recommendations for corridor protection and improvements along Routes 23A and 28, as well as other suggestions related to creating a scenic byways network. Although the recommendations were never fully implemented, several scenic routes in the region were designated as Scenic Byways and include:

- Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway– Winds through the heart of the Catskill Mountains, offering travelers a unique experience of mountain scenery, clear waterways, and rolling farmland, complemented by historic hamlets and their artistic colonies.

- Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway – Travels through the northern high peaks of the Catskill Mountains, offering panoramic views of rugged mountains, valleys, and rushing streams that influenced Hudson River School painters in the mid-19th Century.

- Designated Scenic Roads in Greene County – Cochrane Road, Cromwallville Road, County Road 20, County Route 61, Cunningham Road, Dugway Road, Mitchell Hollow Road, Route 9J, Route 23, Route 23A, Route 385, Platt Cove Road, Prick Hill Lane, Rip Van Winkle Bridge, Stonebridge Road, Stoney Clove Road, Susquehanna Turnpike, Sutton Road, and Woods Road.

- Durham Valley Scenic Byway - a 21-mile corridor that accesses the northernmost escarpment of the Catskill Mountains stretching from the summit of nearby Mount Pisgah along Ginseng Ridge past Windham High Peak

In support of both official and unofficial scenic routes, several entities have developed interpretive audio tours. Travel Storys, produced by the Catskill Center, offers a 1.5-hour audio tour of Route 28 between Andes and Shokan. The Route 28 Driving Guides from Silver Hollow Audio (with financial support from the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce), provides three different audio tours on the topics of "Experience", "Arts & Culture" and "Outdoor Adventure". Another audio tour and interactive map available is of Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway.

STRATEGIES

Over the next decade, the auto industry is expected to make a shift from cars powered solely by internal combustion engines to electric and Hybrid vehicles. In 2016, only 1% of global auto sales came from plug-in electric vehicles (less than 1 million vehicles). JP Morgan forecasts that by 2025, 8% of all vehicle sales will be for plug-in electric vehicles and an additional 23% will be for hybrid vehicles.1 While most of electric vehicle sales are expected to take place in emerging markets, proactively preparing to accommodate these vehicles within the plan area can help ensure that the region promotes a reduction in fossil fuels and helps capture electric vehicle owner tourism dollars.

PlugShare's interactive online map shows existing electric charging stations in the plan area. The region is already well-served by charging stations with one station at most of the region's largest towns. Continued installation of stations along the scenic corridors will help promote these recreational routes and the potential trail towns along them. Additional consideration at each station should be given to plug-ins for electric bicycles.

[1]*Driving into 2025: The Future of Electric Vehicles. <https://www.jpmorgan.com/global/research/electric-vehicles>*

PROPOSED

Wayfinding

Continue implementation of the Catskill Park Wayfinding Sign Project.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC, CWC, NYSDOT

Charging Stations

Encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging stations along scenic corridors. Where gaps exist, consider installation of publicly-accessible electric vehicle charging stations.

Responsible Agency: TBD

Transit Access

GAPS

For people hoping to travel to and around the Greater Catskill Region without a car, existing year-round, regular transit options can be a limiting factor. Existing transit services currently available in the area include:

Public Transit

- Greene County Transit- Offers nine bus routes mostly concentrated in northern Greene County and near the Hudson River. Two exceptions are Route 708 (white) and Route 709 (red).
- Route 708- (white) loops between Catskill, Palenville, Haines Falls, Tannersville, Hunter, Lexington, Prattsville, Ashland, Windham, Hensonville, and Jewett. Service was recently extended along the route to two trips every Wednesday (AM and PM).
- Route 709- (red) loops between Catskill, Leeds, Cairo, Acra, Windham, Ashland, Prattsville, Lexington, Jewett, Hensonville, and Hunter. Service was recently extended along the route to two trips every Friday (AM and PM)
- Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) – Offers 12 bus route mostly concentrated in New Paltz and Kingston. Two exceptions are Route W and Route Z.
- Route Z connects Kingston, West Hurley, Boiceville, Phoenicia, Pine Hill, and Belleayre Mountain 7 times per day

Private Transit

- Trailways – Offers routes across New York, including access from New York City to towns along the Route 28 (three to four times per day) and Route 23A corridors (18 times per day). The frequency of stops along the two corridors presents opportunities to pair transit with one-way trail trips.
- Shortline Bus - (Coach USA) – Offers daily service between New York City and Napanoch, Livingston Manor, and Roscoe (3 to 4 times per day).
- Private Taxi Services - A number of companies offer taxi services in the Catskills region.
- Rideshare Services - Services such as Uber and Lyft operate sporadically throughout the Catskills region, gen-

erally in more dense population areas with good cell phone service.

Ski Shuttles

- Ovrride – Offers winter shuttle from New Jersey and New York City to Hunter Mountain and Windham Mountain. Daily service on Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Sourced Adventures– Offers winter shuttle from New York City to Hunter Mountain. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday service offered.
- Urban Sherpa – Offers Wednesday and weekend shuttle service from New York City to Hunter Windham and Windham Mountain during the winter.
- Sundown Express– Offers winter weekend shuttle service from Nassau and Suffolk counties to Hunter Mountain and Wind-ham Mountain.

STRATEGIES

Gaps in coverage for daily resident transportation and access to popular visitor outdoor recreation destinations remain. The largest gaps in coverage are within Delaware County as well as access from Livingston Manor and Roscoe to the central Catskills. Feedback from municipalities through the planning process have indicated that there is a desire to attempt to close these gaps through proposals for additional summer shuttle services. Various towns, villages and even private entities have expressed a willingness to be part of a partnership, but no agreements have yet been made.

An example of a shuttle operated through a public-private partnership is Trailhead Direct. Operated by King County Metro Transit, King County Parks, the Seattle Department of Transportation, REI Co-op, and Cliff Bar, it provides seasonal weekend and holiday service to trailheads in the Issaquah Alps. The program was created to help expand access to trails and to reduce trailhead congestion, illegal parking, and safety concerns.

Another trails-specific shuttle service is the Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA), which serves Leelanau and Grant Traverse counties in Michigan. BATA offers a Bike-n-Ride shuttle service from the end of May to mid-October. The shuttles are intentionally paired with the region's trail network, joining with the TART Trail to create the 17-mile Suttons Bay Loop and joining with the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail to create the Glen Arbor/Empire Loop. Each Bike-n-Ride loop bus are equipped to transport up to three bicycles, and a select number of buses have been retrofitted to accommodate three to eleven bicycles of various types and sizes (including child trailers).[1]

Similarly, the National Park Service and Glacier National Park Conservancy launched a new shuttle bus service in 2016 for bicycle riders that operates from May to June and is equipped to carry up to 16 bikes (including a limited number of tandem and recumbent bikes) on a trailer.

The Garden/Johns Brook Valley Hiker Shuttle in Keene, New York offers roundtrip weekend access from a remote parking lot (Marcy Field) to the Garden trailhead in the High Peaks Wilderness. The shuttle is designed to help maintain access to the trailhead while a bridge replacement project prevents ongoing vehicle and pedestrian access. Parking access along Route 73 in the Adirondacks to the popular Cascade and Pitchoff Mountain trailheads was closed in the summer of 2018. A shuttle service was provided from the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount van Hoevenberg by the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA). The shuttle helps reduce the need for parking along the shoulder of Route 73 and helps to alleviate safety issues related to hikers walking along the road to the trailhead. In addition, NYSDEC and ORDA opened a new trail (Van Ho) at the parking lot for hikers who want to forego the shuttle service, with the ultimate goal of connecting the new trail to the Cascade and Pitchoff trailheads.

A similar limitation on parking access and creation of a shuttle service should be considered along Route 23A to popular trailheads in the Kaaterskill Clove. Extended service operating between Saugerties to Route 23A, Hunter, Shandaken Phoenicia, Mt. Tremper, the Ashokan Reservoir, Bluestone Wild Forest, and Kingston in coordination with existing Greene County Transit and Trailways service may have the greatest opportunities for hiker access to popular trailheads.

[1] *In 2017, the Federal Transit Administration published the Manual on Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections to Transit. The manual provides assessment criteria for determining bicycle parking needs at transit stations and policies for identifying the most appropriate bicycle rack type for buses.*

PROPOSED

Transit Summit

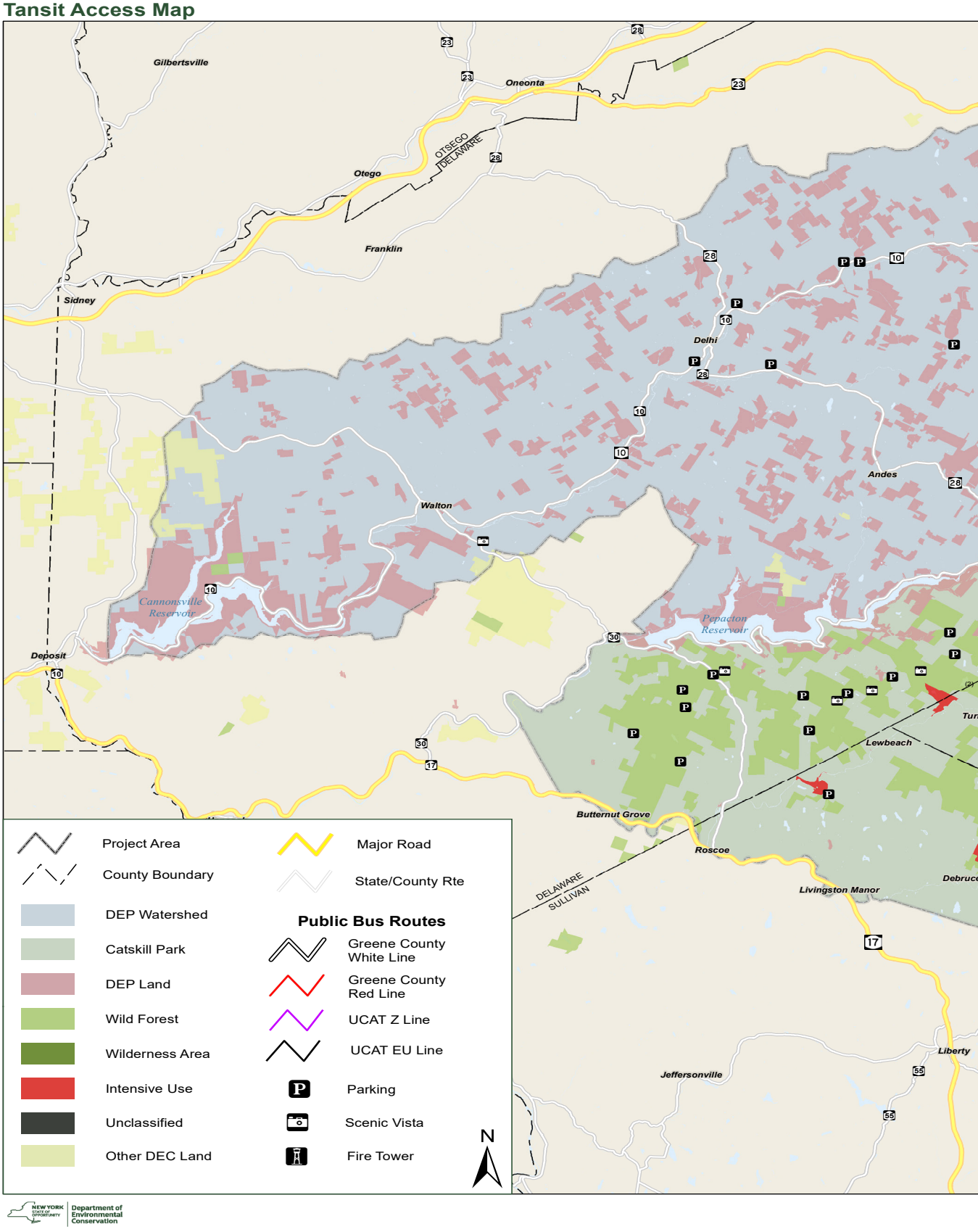
Hold a "Transit Summit" to discuss public transit needs, available partnerships, and potential strategies.

Conduct a study of potential parking fee charges at high-use sites to encourage fewer auto trips and to help finance transit service. In addition, investigate potential public-private partnerships regarding potential utilization of municipal lots.

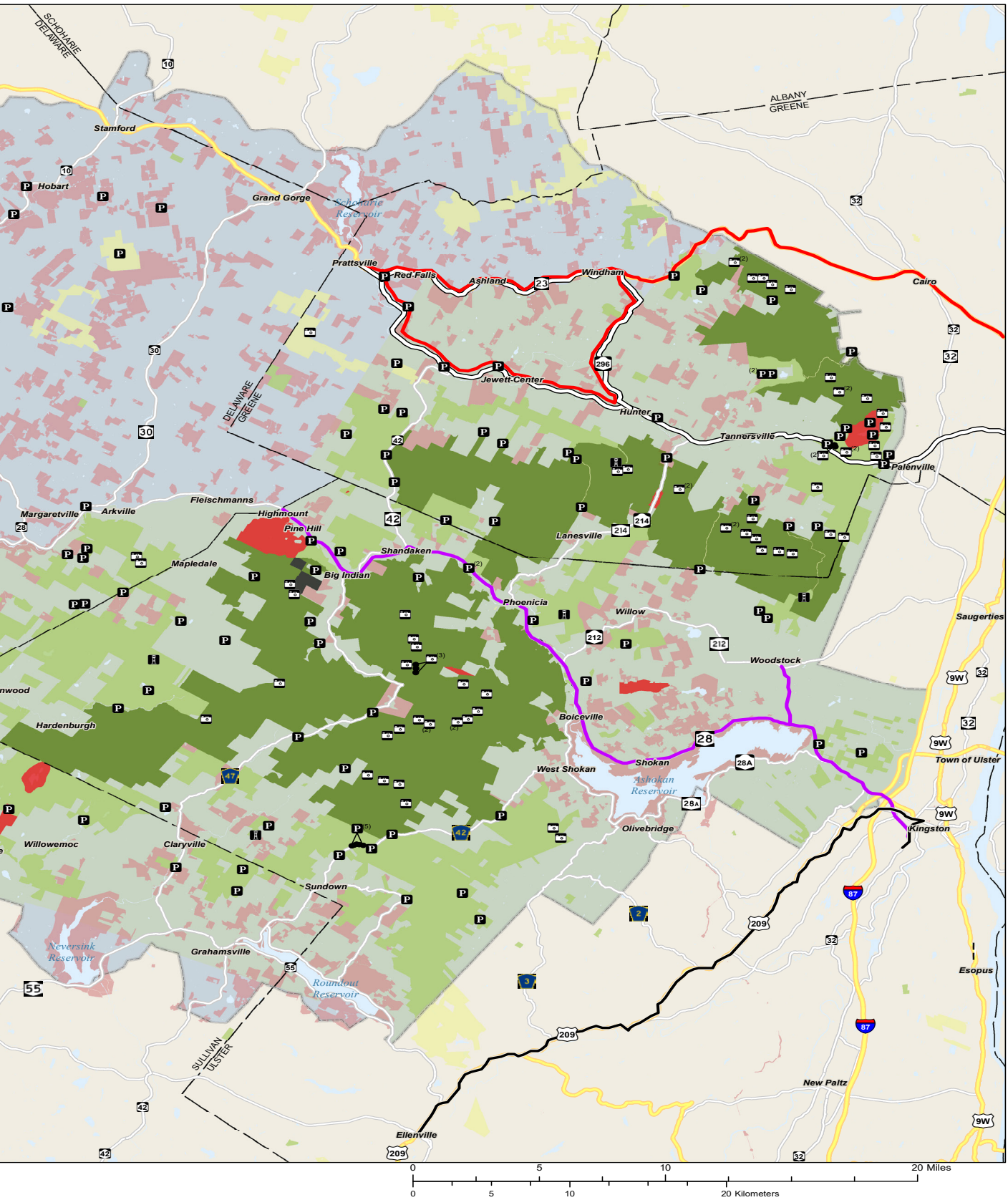
Responsible Agency: All partner agencies

MAP #08: TRANSIT ACCESS

Tansit Access Map



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation


SCHOHARIE
DELAWARE
ALBANY
GREENE
Stamford
Hobart
Grand Gorge
Schoharie Reservoir
Prattsville
Red Falls
Ashland
Windham
Cairo
Jewett Center
Hunter
Tannersville
Palenville
DELAWARE
GREENE
Fleischmanns
Margaretville
Arkville
Highmount
Pine Hill
Shandaken
Mapledale
Big Indian
Lanesville
Phoenicia
Willow
Saugerties
Woodstock
Hardenburgh
Boiceville
West Shokan
Shokan
Ashokan Reservoir
Town of Ulster
Kingston
Olivebridge
Willowemoc
Claryville
Sundown
Neversink Reservoir
Grahamsville
Roundout Reservoir
Esopus
New Paltz
SULLIVAN
ULSTER
Ellenville
0 5 10 20 Miles
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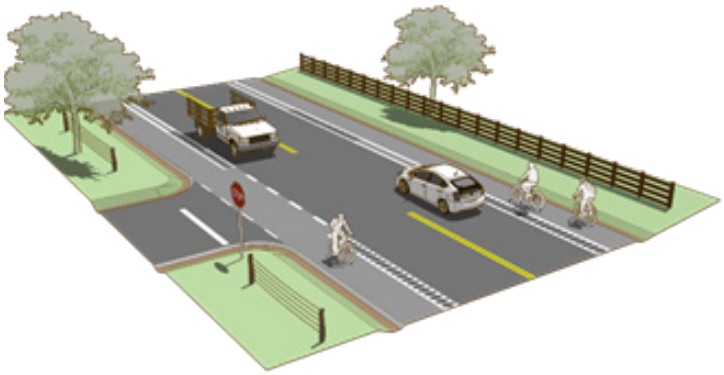
On-Road Bicycling

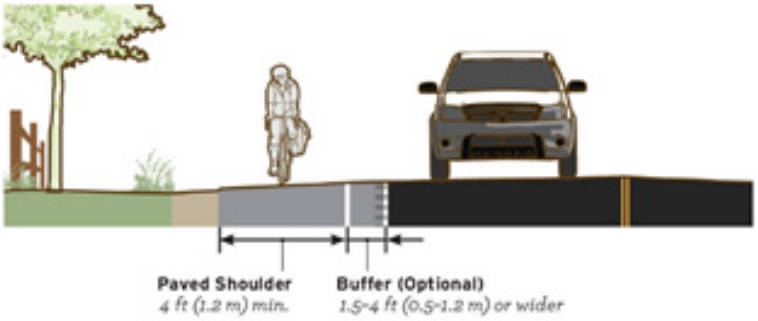
GAPS & STRATEGIES

In many instances, expansion of an existing trail is not feasible due to topographic limitations, lack of available right-of-way, or potential intrusions into environmentally sensitive areas. A potential alternative to expanding the off-street trail is to provide a connecting on-street bikeway route. As major trail networks are developed, such as the Empire State Trail, designation of official on-street bicycle routes can connect these networks to trails in the region. To-date, the region features little on-road bicycle infrastructure. In rural settings with speeds in excess of 40 mph, the Small Town and Rural De-sign Guide recommends modified use of paved shoulders to encourage on-road bicycling.

Paved shoulders can serve as a functional space for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel in the absence of other facilities with greater separation. Strategies to reduce conflicts between bicyclists and motor vehicles between the paved shoulders and roadway include the striping of wide, solid white lines or a buffer, using contrasting pavement colors or materials, and installation of bicycle-specific edge line rumble strips.



Visually Separated Paved Shoulder Design (Small Town and Rural Design Guide)



Cross-section of Paved Shoulder Design (Small Town and Rural Design Guide)

An example of a two-way paved shoulder with bicycle-friendly rumble strips can be seen in Shepherdstown, West Virginia along Route 45.

The design includes bicycle pavement markings and intermittent knock-down posts to further delineate the shoulder from the roadway without preventing breakdown access.

PROPOSED

Reservoir Roundabouts: Several of the NY City Reservoirs in the Catskill/Delaware watershed provide great road bicycling opportunities that could be enhanced with some highway improvements. Some examples follow:

- Ashokan Reservoir Loops: The Ashokan Reservoir has long been an attractive road biking destination with Route 28A allowing for travel on the south side of the reservoir, and Route 28 providing a route on the north side. However, despite a wide shoulder, traffic and a posted speed limit of 55 mph detracts from the northern route. With the opening of the Ashokan Rail Trail on the north side of the reservoir, providing a traffic-free alternative to Route 28, this will become a much more attractive loop for cyclists of about 31 miles. Opportunities to improve this loop would include providing an expanded shoulder or a bike lanes on Route 28A. Smaller loops can be created by crossing over the reservoir at it's midpoint using Reservoir Road for a 19 mile loop (east basin) or 16 mile loop around the western basin. Alternatively, a 35 mile route using 28A, Wittenberg Road, Route 212, Zena Road to Basin Road would link the hamlet of Woodstock.

- Pepacton Reservoir Loops: With much lower traffic counts, the Pepacton Reservoir has been a very attractive bicycling destination for visitors and residents alike. Loops utilizing Route 30 and the NY City Road can be developed, allowing an ambitious 50-mile route around the entire reservoir, smaller loops utilizing the Shavertown bridge crossing the Pepacton at mid-point. The village of Margaretville and the hamlet of Downsville can easily be incorporated into the routes to allow cyclists to find services in local communities. Recent paving projects have improved road conditions, but an expanded shoulder on the NY City Road would make for an even better experience for cyclists.

- Rondout Reservoir Loop: Route 55 (south side) and Route 55A (north side) allow for a pleasant ride around the Rondout Reservoir, and the hamlet of Grahamsville at the west end of the reservoir can easily be accessed for services. The Daniel Pierce Library in Grahamsville includes the Time and the Valleys Museum, which provides a great opportunity to learn about local history.

Work with NYSDOT to close gaps in bicyclist and pedestrian access between trail-heads, trail towns, and campgrounds and to create branded bicycling routes in western portions of the plan area. Potential bicycle routes include:

- Hazel Road/Creamery Road Bicycle Route – On-road connection to Liv-

ingston Manor to proposed Burnt Hill Loop (from Old Rt. 17 to Main Street in Livingston Manor), connects to angler parking lots (multiple)

- Burnt Hill Loop – connects Roscoe to proposed Hazel Road/Creamery Road Bicycle Route to create on-road loop

- Rt. 28 Connection – from north end of Ashokan Rail Trail on Rt. 28A (at angler parking lot) to Boiceville and Catskills-Visitor Center

- Cold Brook Road/Wittenberg Road Bicycle Route to connect proposed Rt. 28 on-road connection to Kenneth L. Wilson Campground (and its bike trails) to proposed Woodstock loop

- Woodstock Connection
  - Connects Phoenicia bike trails to Cooper lake, Woodstock, and Wilson campground
  - Jessop Road/ Eighmey Road Bicycle route between Rt. 212 (Willow) and Phoenicia Trail (Phoenicia – Mt. Tobias Wild Forest)
  - Rt. 212 Bicycle Route from Eighmey Road (Willow) to Cooper Lake Road
  - Cooper Lake Road Bicycle Route from Rt. 212 to Wittenberg Road
  - Tinker Street from Cooper Lake Road to Mill Hill Road (Woodstock)
  - West Hurley Road/ Mill Hill Road Sidepath – from Tinker Street (Woodstock) to Ashokan Rail Trail (West Hurley)

- Rt. 23/Main Street Bicycle Route from South Street (Windham) to Old Road (Windham) + Old Road/Cress Road Bicycle Route from Main Street (Windham) to Rt 23 Parking lot (Elm Ridge Wild Forest) – connects town to many Elm Ridge Wild Forest Bike trails
  - Windham Path to Elm Ridge - wayfinding and shoulder improvements on Rt. 23

- Rt. 18 Bicycle Route (parallel Delaware River) from end of Catskill Scenic Rail Trail at Bloomville to Kingston St (Delhi)
  - Western Catskill Loop- Rt. 28 from Kingston St (Delhi) to Rt. 6 (Lake Delaware)
  - Rt. 6 from Rt. 28 (Bovina Center) to New Kingston Road/Bovina Road (Bovina)
  - Bovina Road from New Kingston Road//Rt 6 (Bovina) to Crescent Valley Rod (Bovina)
  - Rt. 5/Yankee Road/Cape Horn from Crescent valley Road (Bovina) to Rt. 18 (Bloomville)
  - Spur on Glen Burnie Road to Bramley Mountain Trailhead (efforts to restore former fire tower) add bike parking

Responsible Agencies: NYSDOT, NYSDEC

Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Messaging Section —

This section contains:

137 Education & Programs

Education & Programs

GAPS & STRATEGIES

Due to the multitude of stewardship issues in the Greater Catskill Region, a large number of stewardship messages are promoted by various agencies. Popular messages include: "Carry It In, Carry It Out," "Hike Safe," "Leave No Trace," "Pack it In Pack it Out," "Stay on Trails," and "Don't Trash our Waters," all with the same goal of promoting general environmental awareness and reducing the people's impact on the environment. For visitors unfamiliar with the underlying principles of each slogan, the proliferation of different messages may cause the messages to drown each other out. In a survey of residents living near waterways published in Environmental Communication, researchers found that people were most interested in hearing about how environmental issues affected their own communities. They write that effective environmental messaging incorporates value-based targeted messages, which stresses understanding your audience's needs, motivations, preferences, and values to develop a message that addresses local concerns using local language. [1]

To accomplish these goals requires identifying a single message for our audiences: visitors currently recreating in the Catskills and potential visitors that benefit from the environmental protection efforts of the partner agencies. For visitors enjoying the region's natural resources, the primary goal of an environmental protection message is fostering a sense of awareness about the negative impacts of littering and their potential negative environmental impact to the natural resources.

The "Leave No Trace" (LNT) message developed by the Center for Outdoor Ethics has gained traction in the United States, largely through formal training connected to the messaging. The Center for Outdoor Ethics reports that 60,000 people have been formally trained in the seven principles of LNT The public's already broad awareness of the campaign, its ability to translate into programming, and its broad scope (encompassing trails, natural areas, waterways, and interactions with wildlife) make it ideal as an environmental message for Catskill visitors.

The Catskills Visitor Center can serve as a hub for stewardship messaging and programming throughout the region. The information presented by staff and through materials and programming should incorporate the agreed upon LNT messaging. The Catskills Visitor Center can also leverage partnerships with organizations and businesses outside of the Greater Catskill Region to intersect with visitors before they arrive in the region.

Experience by the NYSDEC and the Catskill Center with the Catskill Stewards Program at the Peekamoose Blue Hole and Kaaterskill Falls has shown that quality stewardship programming, presented by well-trained, seasonal staff can be an effective tool to educate visitors about the responsible use of an area. Stewards have contributed significantly to improvements in natural resource protection and public safety in both locations, as well as acting as resources for the public to educate them on the Catskill Forest Preserve LNT principles, nearby attractions and the existence of the Catskills Visitor Center for additional resources.

Stewardship programming can help reinforce environmental messaging. However, the need for the development of a broader constituency to build awareness and support for the management, maintenance, and stewardship of these valuable natural resources was mentioned by community representatives during this Plan's public engagement process. Members of the public proposed the development of a network of volunteers to assist with the production and distribution of information about the land, interpretive programming, environmental education, improved outreach, among other activities.

Many local groups and agencies already provide these services, on professional and volunteer levels including:

- Assistant Forest Rangers (NYSDEC)
- Backcountry Stewardship Program (NYSDEC)
- Catskills Fire Tower Project (Catskill Center)
- Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (Catskill Center)
- Catskill Science Collaborative & Catskill Environmental Research & Monitoring Conference (Cary Institute)
- Catskills Visitor Center (Catskill Center)
- Education Grants (CWC)
- Junior Naturalist Program (NYSDEC)
- Master Naturalist Program (Cornell Extension)
- Volunteer Stewardship Agreements (multiple organizations with NYSDEC, many include trail maintance)
- Summit Steward Program (NYNJ Trail Conference)

Better coordination on messaging and curriculum between these groups could help them be more effective in achieving their respective missions. With the help of the Catskill Park Advisory Committee, a meeting of agencies and individual program heads to discuss the promotion of a single environmental message and to develop a common curriculum would help unify regional stewardship efforts. The curriculum should touch on common approaches to addressing litter/waste, discouraging overcrowding, hiking and mountain biking trail deterioration, and volunteer recruitment. [2]

To assist with volunteer recruitment the principal land management agencies should consider developing incentives to make it more attractive and devote staff time to managing volunteers to ensure they understand their role, that they have the resources necessary to do the work and that they have a real sense of importance, that land managers truly appreciate the work they do. Given the many responsibilities that land managers have, a volunteer program could be undertaken by a partner organization under contract with the agency(s).

Development of packaged experiences and passport programs can help encourage visitors to try a broad range of experiences in the Greater Catskill Region; however, these marketing tools may miss segments of the population that are less likely to engage in outdoor recreation. A 2018 survey on outdoor participation rates found that approximately half of white, Asian, and Latino respondents in the United States participated in an outdoor recreation activity in the past year compared to only 34% of Black survey respondents. However, Black and Latino survey respondents that did participate in an outdoor activity had the highest average of annual outdoor recreational outings per person among all survey respondents (86 and 87 outings per year, respectively, compared to 76 for white survey respondents and 74 for Asian survey respondents).[3] This gap in participation presents an opportunity to seek non-traditional marketing strategies to increase the visitor base to the region.

To help fill the gap, the National Park Service, volunteers from the School of Public Health at George Washington University, park rangers, and physicians helped to conceived of the Parks Prescription programs (ParkRx). Since the creation of the national program, other agencies have developed toolkits to help guide agency involvement.

The Institute at the Golden Gate, separates integration of the program into a park setting through the following six steps:

- Determine your population – Identifying the target population(s) can help program managers better understand the barriers that they face.
- Bring together your partners – Develop partnerships with local clinical health providers, public health practitioners, and community-based organizations.
- Articulate your health goals – Using knowledge of the target population and information from your partners, develop concrete health goals, such as increasing the level of physical activity by 10%
- Design your program – Once goals have been established, identify available resources, a communication strategy, and the role of each partner in removing barriers to recreation and reaching the program's goals.
- Train your team to empower your participants – Provide training to staff so that they can be ambassadors for recreational opportunities
- Implement and evaluate – Record challenges and track progress towards the program goals

Approximately 15% of Black survey respondents indicated that not having enough information was preventing them from participating more in outdoor recreation compared to 9% of white, Latino, and Asian respondents. Development of a formal inclusion action plan, such as the National Recreation and Park Association's Parks and Recreation Inclusion Report (2018), can help identify ways to consistently disseminate information to underserved populations and help provide a layer of accountability. One example of a community putting inclusivity strategies into action is the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Hispanic Outreach Pilot Program. The program targets Spanish-speaking populations to increase awareness of state conservation laws and regulations, provide water safety training, and host hands-on fishing lessons. [4]

In Pennsylvania, the Conservation Leadership Academy was developed in 2014 to help urban youth from Allentown engage in outdoor recreation. The academy is part of Lehigh Gap Nature Center's Color of Nature program, which is designed to engage Latino audiences in environmental education. Latino youth are trained and paid to lead bilingual environmental education programs and nature walks for families in Allentown's parks and nearby natural areas, including the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. Through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and support from Jacobsburg and Moravian College, the academy hosted 10 urban youth from Allentown in a weeklong intensive day camp that studied environmental issues and nature, visited Moravian College, enjoyed outdoor recreational activities such as hiking and kayaking at Beltzville State Park, and learned about conservation careers. Program organizers hope that the camp will continue to be held annually and will develop interest in conservation in the Latino community, develop new recruits to train in the Color of Nature program, and lead to a future with more diverse conservation professionals.

An additional opportunity to increase outdoor recreation participation is through hunting. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey found the number of hunters in the United States fell between 2011 and 2016, from about 13 million to 11 million. While Maryland has avoided a decline in hunter participation,[5] the State is working to be proactive in their marketing efforts in anticipate of national trends playing out in the state. One strategy being used by the State is a mentoring program for first-time adult hunters. The program began in the spring of 2018, and it received 60 applications for turkey season. In the fall of 2018, it received an additional 60 applications for deer season.[6]

Another way to promote environmental education is through immersive learning. A 2017 study found that the average age for a camper's first camping trip was 10 years old, and that after age 15, the likelihood of being exposed to camping dramatically decreased.[7] Educational experiences targeted at youths are offered at recreation and camping areas across the country, with some places finding clever ways to reach a broader audience. During the summer at Fort Wilkins State Park in Michigan, local university students offer historic interpretive services, relaying how people lived in the park area during the late 1800s. At Michigan's Sanilac Petro-glyphs State Park, archeologic interpretation of the site is accompanied by activities like spear-throwing and flint knapping.

Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs encourage visitors to explore their sites and learn about local history, culture, and fauna through "geocaching," an outdoor recreational activity in which participants try to locate hidden or "cached" containers with GPS devices. These pre-planned treasure hunts can be as simple as a single hidden prize that the winner gets to keep or as complex as a series of cached items that string together a story around a campground for all visitors to enjoy.

The Delaware River Family Campground in Columbia, New Jersey offers several water-based activities like boat/tube rentals, river excursions, and a fishing demonstration.

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[1] *Jarreau, P.B. and Z. Altinay. Best Practices in Environmental Communication: A Case Study of Louisiana' Coastal Cities (2017). Environmental Communication. 2: 143-165. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17524032.2015.1094103?journalCode=renc20>*

[2] *USDA's Managing Wilderness Recreation Use offers a starting point for discussions.*

[3] *Outdoor Participation Report (2018). Outdoor Foundation. <https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2018-outdoor-participation>*

[4] *Bilingual information cards were distributed at Peekamoose Blue Hole in 2018. Translation of regulatory information can help increase overall awareness of new recreation policies.*

[5] *The State sold more than 90,000 hunting licenses to adult residents in recent years and have seen a growing number of nonresidents licenses.*

[6] *Dance, S. Maryland hopes to recruit new hunters and promote conservation. The Washington Post. November 28, 2018. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/maryland-hopes-to-recruit-new-hunters--and-promote-conservation/2018/11/29/69cccf3e-ecf3-11e8-96d4-0d23f2aaad09_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.08471c7ad9fc>*

[7] *2017 American Camper Report. The Coleman Company, Inc. and The Outdoor Foundation.<https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2017-Camping-Report_FINAL.pdf>*

Campaign

Reinforce "Leave No Trace" principles at all formal trailheads, trail signs, across trail-related webpages and at the Catskills Visitor Center. Develop a volunteer clearinghouse using available platforms and actively recruit participation from university students.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP, CWC, Catskill Center

Curriculum

Creation of a unified regional stewardship curriculum that promotes the "Leave No Trace" messaging.

Responsible Agencies: all partner agencies

Stewardship Staff

Expand Catskill Stewards Program model to additional high-use areas in the Greater Catskills Region to interact with and educate visitors before they get on the trails. Expand Backcountry Steward and Assistant Forest Ranger models to interact with more visitors in the backcountry.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, Catskill Center

Immersive Learning

Develop immersive learning activities for children at state campgrounds and the Catskills Visitor Center on cultural history, fishing, watershed protection, hiking and natural resources.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, CWC, Catskill Center

Inclusivity Plan

Develop an inclusion action plan to identify ways to design and market outdoor recreation opportunities to populations that are traditionally less likely to know about available resources.

Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYC DEP, Catskill Center

Leverage

Utilize Catskills Visitor Center connections to organizations and businesses in the metropolitan area to connect with and deliver stewardship information and programming to visitors before they arrive in the region.

Responsible Agency: Catskill Center

Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Marketing Section —

This section contains:

147 Information Sharing & Dispersion

Information Sharing & Dispersion

GAPS

Communication with residents and visitors is critical for helping people become aware of events and recreational opportunities. Currently there are many competing sources of information in the Catskills which makes reaching a broader audience difficult. The chart at the top of the facing page shows that a wide distribution of special events drew survey respondents to the region.

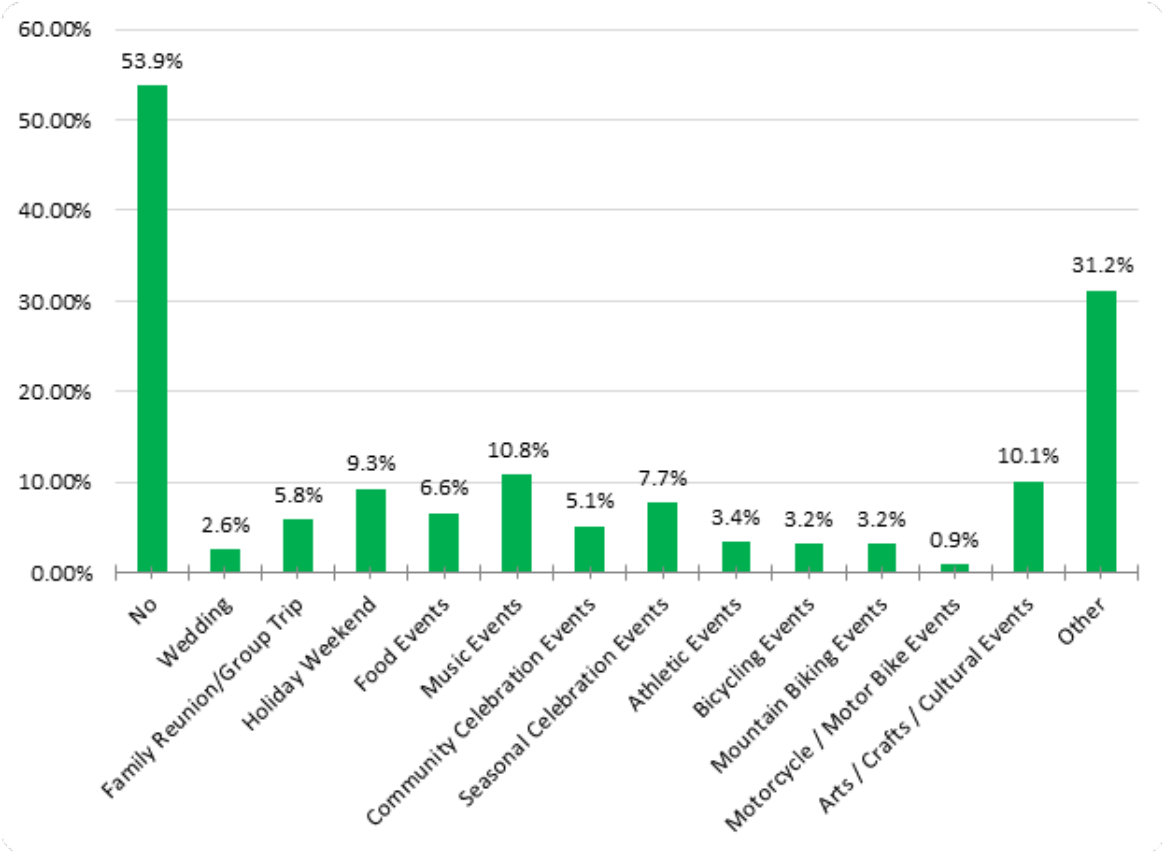
Community celebration events, family reunions/group trips, food-related events, and seasonal celebration events attracted between 5% and 10% of survey respondents. Holiday weekends (9%), arts/crafts/cultural events (10%), and music events were the most popular events among the 744 survey respondents.

Although special events are a strong driver of visitor traffic to the region, information about upcoming events is spread across multiple publications. Examples of competing publications in the region include:

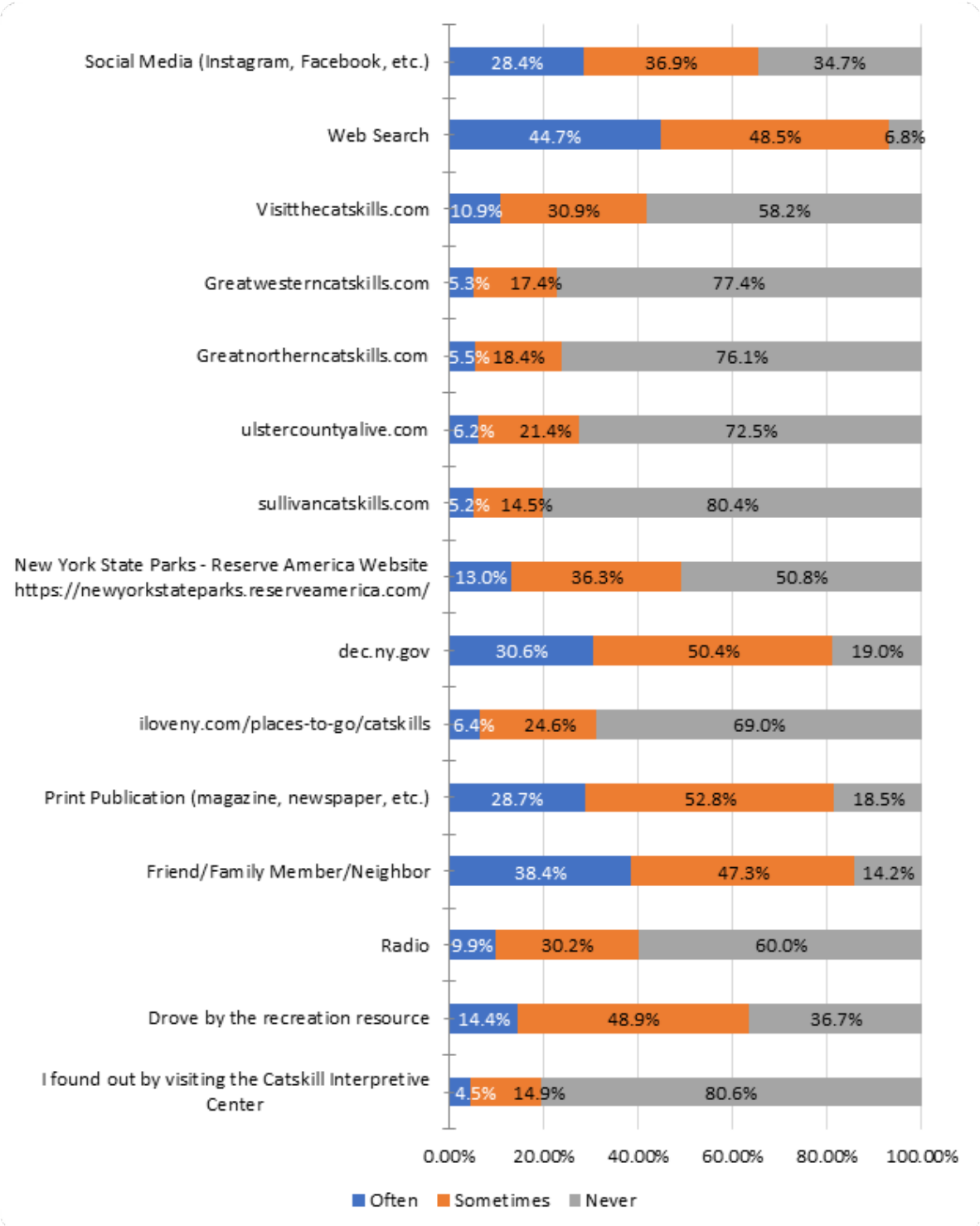
- Catskill Country
- Pure Catskills Guide
- Catskills Outdoor Guide
- Catskill Mountain Region Guide
- Roscoe-Livingston Manor Visitor's Guide
- I Love New York Travel Guides
- Sullivan Catskills Travel Guide
- Great Northern Catskills of Greene County Travel Guide
- Ulster County Tourism Guide
- Great Western Catskills Travel Guide

The following chart shows the primary sources for learning of recreational opportunities throughout the Catskills. While NYSDEC's website (31% said "often:) and word of mouth (38% said "often") were popular sources of information, almost half of respondents indicated that a general web search was where they learned about recreational opportunities (45% said "often"). Among print publications, only the VisitTheCatskill website garnered more than 10% of total survey respondents.

Special Events that Attracted Visitors to the Region (n=744)



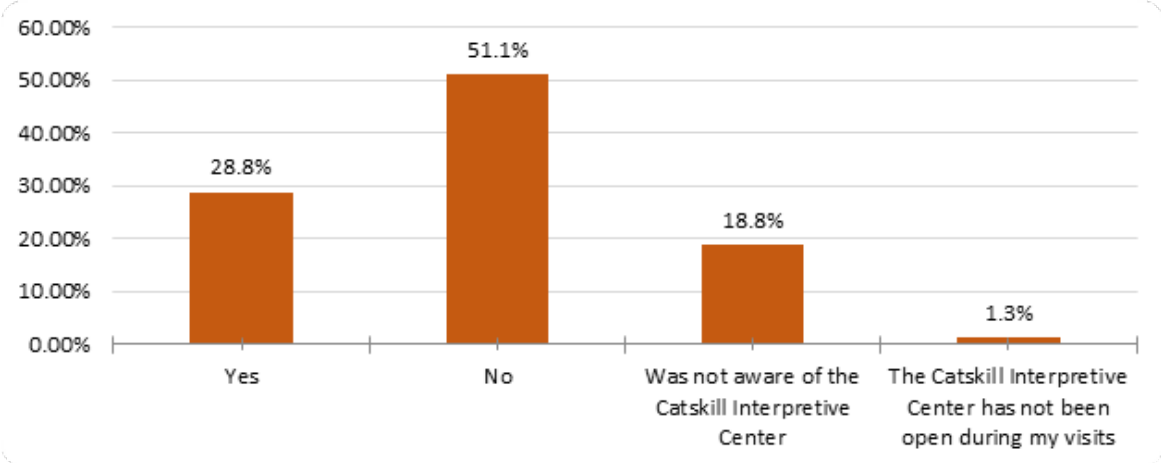
Source for Information about Recreational Opportunities (n=752)



The potential for consolidation of these publications is limited, as many are tied to existing streams of funding and advertising, creating a roadblock to buying into a larger regional system. Previous attempts by the CWC and Watershed Post attempted to create a regional platform for sharing events across the region, but both have since ended operations of their respective websites.

The Catskills Visitor Center is in the process of developing a new website which will help promote outdoor recreation in the region. The new website presents an opportunity to consolidate some functions but driving traffic to the site will require learning from previous attempts. Among the 781 survey respondents, roughly half had not visited the Catskills Visitor Center and another 19% indicated that they were not aware of it (see the chart below).

Have you visited the Catskill Interpretive Center (Visitor Center)? (n=781)



STRATEGIES

One of the reasons that VisitTheCatskills has outpaced other publications is its well-developed events calendar. The page is graphically focused and allows users to sort by activity. Best practices for a regional recreation events calendar include,

- Develop an approach for researching other websites for events.
- Sorting by activity, duration, difficulty and group events. (e.g., recreation, family friendly, conservation, youth programs, recreation challenges, history).
- Allow visitors to identify walking, hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, mountain biking, birding, and other outdoor recreation opportunities through an easy-to-use drop-down filter and interactive map.
- Allow users to view individual activities or to scroll through trip ideas.

In addition to accessing outdoor recreation information and calendar events through websites, a growing number of people are using mobile phone devices and applications (apps) to access information. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Internet Project reveals that 95% of American adults 18+ years of age own a mobile phone and 77% own a smartphone. A survey by the Outdoor Foundation found that 74% of adults used a smartphone while camping, 47% used a mobile device for GPS location services, and 33% for outdoor activity-related apps.

NYSDEC currently provides recreation information through a mobile app called "New York Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife App". The app is free for users and is primarily supported through on-screen advertising. Its 15,000 monthly users can access the following tools:

- Calendar of events
- News, advisories, weather, and safety alerts
- Social networking and photo sharing
- Cacheable maps and facility descriptions for offline use
- Permit, license, and campsite reservations

NYSDEC is planning an update to the mobile app, and potential changes could include,

- a new name
- of events to another calendar system
- an expanded reservation system
- (e.g., a connection to the proposed paddleshare kiosk)
- access to proposed trail ratings (including fully accessible facilities)
- search by location or amenity features throughout the Catskills
- social network sharing of the proposed expanded pass-port program, and listing of the proposed packaged experiences

Continued development of outdoor recreation opportunities around the proposed Trail Town program can help encourage visitors to check out lesser known locations in the Greater Catskill Region and alleviate the burden currently experienced by the plan area's most popular destinations. Using data from over 200,000 geo-tagged Instagram photos in 2017, Kingston Collective developed a list of the most popular and photo-worthy locations in the region (see Table 17). A common trend among the most photogenic locations was its ability to host a wide range of events and festivals or a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

The following chart shows locations that survey respondents thought were the most overused. Among the 260 responses, Peekamoose Blue Hole was considered to be the most overused recreation location (27%), followed by Kaaterskill Falls (24%), North-South Lake (9%), Woodstock (7%), and the Slide Mountain Trail (7%).

Table 17: Geo-tagged Photo Location (Kingston Collective, 2017)

Rank	Location	Geo-tagged Photos
1	Hunter Mountain	14,697
2	Kaaterskill Falls	11,493
3	SUNY Oneonta	6,583
4	Windham Mountain Resort	5,501
5	Bethel Woods Center for the Arts	5,046
6	Ashokan Reservoir	3,734
7	Sam's Point	3,525
8	Belleayre Mountain	2,655
9	North-South Lake Campground	1,401
10	Peekamoose Blue Hole	1,062
11	Plattekill Mountain	982
12	Stony Kill Falls	402
13	Colgate Lake	379
14	Giant's Ledge	346
15	Mongaup Pond	330
16	Roundout Reservoir	289
17	Delaware River	258
18	Neversink Reservoir	246
19	Vernooy Falls	195

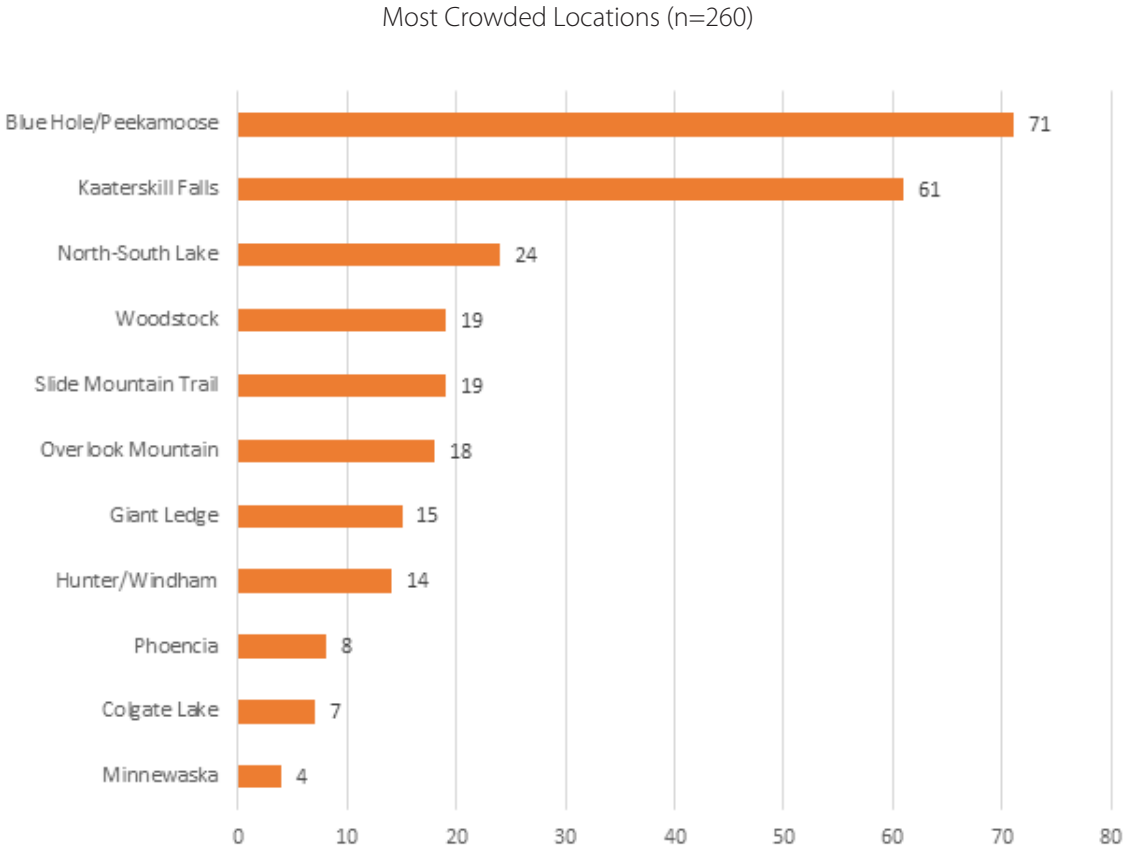


Table 18: Home Counties of Camground Visitors (NYSDEC, 2016)

County	Number of Online Reservations in 2016 (percent of total reservations)
Kings County, NY	2,169 (16%)
Queens County, NY	1,602 (12%)
Suffolk County, NY	1,297 (9%)
New York County, NY	1,246 (9%)
Nassau County, NY	1,241 (9%)
Ulster County, NY	1,005 (7%)
Westchester County, NY	907 (7%)
Orange County, NY	724 (5%)
Dutchess County, NY	546 (4%)
Bronx County, NY	312 (2%)

Land managers are often challenged with balancing conservation and recreational use. In 2017, a research article compiled and compared the summary topics from the decennial World Parks Congress and found a greater acceptance that tourism can be a major contributor to conservation if tourism management strategies are adopted by park managers.

Accommodating increasing levels of trail use without altering the wild character of its lands or the recreational experience can be a challenge. Overuse can contribute to the deterioration of trails, natural resources, or infrastructure. Monitoring by rangers and foresters of trails and parking areas help identify problems that might require corrective action such as,

- closing of trails during certain seasons to prevent erosion,
- re-routing of trails,
- requiring permits for large parties.

Other agencies across the country have started to use "packaged experiences" to shift visitor focus to lesser known resources. An example of an existing packaged experience in the region is the Catskill 3500 Club, which recognizes individuals who have climbed each of the 35 Catskill peaks above 3,500 feet. The club helps educate members and the general public about recreational skills, engages its members in public service, and encourages responsible recreational use of the region's natural resources. By encouraging visitors to hike a wide range of peaks in the region, the club helps disperse visitor use to areas that might otherwise see limited visitor traffic.

An additional method for encouraging the dispersion of visitors are "passports", which inspires friends and families to seek out a checklist of sites around the Catskills. For most, outdoor recreation is a social activity. Approximately 56% of the survey respondents to the 2018 Outdoor Participation Report said that being with family and friends motivates them to go outside (including 56% of children 13-17 years old), compared to 25% that said solitude motivated them.

Passport programs have been developed as a scavenger hunts with a ranging number of stops and can be downloaded for free from a website. To compete, participants can gather answers to the scavenger hunt questions listed within the passport booklet by traveling to the county's various parkland. Everyone can earn a reward after visiting five stops and the rewards continue every five stops. Participants are also eligible to win prizes such as a kayak fishing trip for two, complete with gear and bait needed from gear outfitters, or a trip for four to a local attraction.

Existing passport programs in the Catskills include:

- DEC Catskill Fire Tower Five Challenge
- Family Farm Day Passport (Cornell Co-operative Extension)
- Art Trail Passport (Hudson River School)
- Catskill Fire Tower Passport Program (Morgan Outdoors and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference)
- Catskill Trout Tales (Catskill Center)
- Types of passports range from honor-based and digital photo-based programs to stamp and rubbing medallion programs.

In addition to placing kiosks at trail towns, an opportunity exists to market outdoor recreational opportunities to residents of nearby major urban centers. The National Park Service created the "Find Your Park View Kiosk" which uses audio, visual, and geo-located elements to create a one-minute musical experience for each of the 407 parks within its database. The kiosks are stationed in large urban areas to entice city dwellers to explore parks near them. Visually attractive kiosks create an engaging opportunity to help educate potential visitors about the region, stewardship ethics such as Leave No Trace, the role the watershed plays in protecting their drinking water, and lower impact ways to travel to the greater Catskill Region.

Using data from ReserveAmerica, NYSDEC's online campground reservation system, Table 20 shows the ten counties from which the majority (79%) of campground reservations were made in 2016, all of which were concentrated around the New York City metropolitan area (within a 4-hour drive of the plan area). This visitor data aligns with survey data from the Outdoor Foundation which found the two most important factors for choosing a camping destination were proximity to home location and affordability. Development of remote kiosks at public parks and outdoor retail stores within these metropolitan areas could help reach the largest number of potential visitors to the region.

PROPOSED

Passports

Bring existing regional passport programs under one umbrella program. Work with existing passport program providers to develop a standardized template (digital or paper format) for the passport program and consider expansion of the program to include waterfalls, boating on reservoirs, birding, or other popular activities.
This centralized passport program should work as a small, inexpensive kit that visitors can buy. Included in the kit is the passport book and three rubbing crayons. Rubbing medallions will be installed at each determined Catskill location: town centers, historic landmarks, recreation resources, etc.

Responsible Agency: Catskill Center

Remote Kiosks

Explore installation of remote kiosks at major urban centers in Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island, and New York City with proper logos for DEC, DEP & CVC.

Responsible Agencies: NYC DEP, Catskill Center

Outdoor App

Rebrand and update the "New York Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife App". Rename as the "New York Outdoors App", connect to the proposed regional event calendar and the proposed trail rating assessments.

Responsible Agency: NYSDEC

PROPOSED
Suggested
Recreation Experience

Bring existing regional passport programs under one umbrella program. Work with existing passport program providers to develop a standardized template (digital or paper format) for the passport program and consider expansion of the program to include waterfalls, boating on reservoirs, birding, or other popular activities.

Responsible Agency: Catskill Center

CVC Website Updates

Explore options to optimize the CVC website for SEO to get more traffic online and in person.

- Brand Awareness/Credibility – there is a need to familiarize people with the Catskills Visitors Center and show that it is the starting destination in the Catskills.
- Social Media following - SEO increases followers on social media. The Catskills Visitor Center brand's awareness can go a long way, even to various social media channels. As users visit the website, they are more likely to click on your social media icons and eventually follow you. This aids in creating the opportunity to be the reputable source for Catskill Park information.

Responsible Agencies: Catskill Center

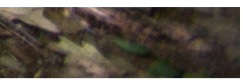
Courtesy of: Catskill Center

Next Steps

This section contains:

163 Physical Recommendations

165 Program Recommendations



Physical Recommendations

This Plan serves as a reference document for public agencies, municipalities, advisory committees and interested parties to help guide future recreation decisions and to help make it easier for a wide range of visitors to enjoy the region's many natural and cultural resources. Recommendations included in each section serve as a menu of options for the partner agencies and other interested parties to advance as opportunities arise, including their incorporation into future iterations of Unit Management Plans.
Below is a summary of proposed physical recommendations:

- Complete implementation of the **Catskill Park Wayfinding Sign Project** and establish a program for sustaining the sign system and its components.
- Encourage the installation of **electric vehicle charging stations** along scenic corridors.
- Expand **equipment rental** availability at campgrounds.
- **Pilot kayak kiosk rental system** at Lake Rip Van Winkle in Tannersville
- Create **branded bicycling routes** in the Catskills.
- Study the potential for **expanded mountain biking opportunities** through additional land acquisition in Blue Stone Wild Forest, Campbell Mountain Wild Forest, Willowemoc Wild Forest, and Sundown Wild Forest.
- Explore installation of **urban kiosks** at major urban centers in New York.
- Develop a standard **Greater Catskill Region kiosk** that can be modified by a municipality to include local cultural and historical information.
- Conduct a study of **pedestrian crossing** improvements.
- Continue development of the **Ashokan Rail Trail** corridor from West Hurley to Kingston.
- Develop a **Burroughs Cultural Trail**, connecting the John Burroughs Memorial Site and Woodchuck Lodge through a new interpretive trail spur from the existing Catskill Scenic Trail.
- **Extend the Devil's Path** west ascending North Dome and Mount Sherill, terminating on State Route 42.
- Connect the Finger Lakes Trail to the **Red Hill Fire Tower Trail** through NYC-DEP watershed lands and the Sundown Wild Forest from Ladleton.
- Create the **"Tombstone Loop"** by developing a short trail connection between the available parking at the Notch Inn Road Trail to the Devil's Tombstone

Campground along the Devil's Path.

- Provide a short side-path connection paralleling Route 28 from the town center of Fleischmanns to the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center.
- Create a trail spur connecting the Ashokan Promenade, Olivebridge, and the Ashokan Reservoir to the Ashokan High Point Loop.
- Construct a new **Mount Tobias Hiking Trail**, connecting the Catskills Visitor Center with Mount Tobias.
- Enhance an informal hiking trail on **Ticeteneyck Mountain** by improving and marking a parking lot on NYCDEP watershed lands on Peck Road in Olive and improving and marking the route to the summit of Ticeteneyck Mountain.
- Connect the public fishing parking area at the town of Hunter through Stony Clove Notch to the Becker Hollow parking lot and trailhead near Hunter-West Kill Wilderness with a foot trail.
- Construct a new foot trail ascending Huckleberry Point, creating a **"Huckleberry Loop"** trail.
- Connect Tannersville to the Kaaterskill High Peak Trail in Kaaterskill Wild Forest through a trail spur.
- **Improve access to Pratt Rock** tourist attraction and views of the Schoharie Reservoir from Prattsville with a short, well-marked trail spur through Huntersfield Creek.
- Provide a trail spur between the town of Walton to the Finger Lake and Bear Spring Mountain trails through Bear Spring and Delaware 90.
- Create a trail spur off the **"Touch-Me-Not"** section of the Finger Lakes Trail in Delaware Wild Forest to available parking on Beech Hill Road.
- **Expand the Ashokan High Point Trail** in Sundown Wild Forest to create a stacked loop system.
- Provide a short pedestrian connection paralleling Route 28 from the town center of Margaretville to the Dry Brook Ridge trailhead.
- **Expand the Denman Mountain Snowmobile Trail** in Sundown Wild Forest to create a single loop trail system.

Program Recommendations

In addition to physical recommendations, below is a summary of programmatic recommendations:

- Develop and adopt **Guidelines for Highway Facilities in the Catskill Park**.
- Conduct periodic **assessment of the trailess peaks** to inform trail managers of resource impacts and the need for management action.
- **Rebrand and update the "New York Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife App"**. Re-name as the "New York Outdoors App", connect to the proposed regional event calendar and the proposed trail rating assessments.
- Develop a Catskill-specific **Trail Town program**.
- Place existing **regional passport programs** under one umbrella program.
- Conduct a **transportation study** for high-use corridors in the Catskills, including Route 23A and Route 28. Include public transportation options and potential parking fee charges at high-use sites to encourage fewer auto trips and to help finance transit service.
- Cross-promote "**free fishing days**" and free family fishing days NYSDEC and NYC DEP websites.
- Undertake a study of to determine the feasibility of re-establishing a **swimming area at Kenneth L. Wilson Campground**.
- Develop an **inclusion action plan** to identify ways to design and market outdoor recreation opportunities to underserved populations that are traditionally less likely to know about available resources.
- Create a unified regional stewardship curriculum that promotes the **"Leave No Trace" messaging**.
- Develop a **universal access plan** to set design standards for the region and to prioritize accessibility projects, including the identification of accessible boat launch sites and fishing platforms that are co-located near existing accessible recreation facilities.
- Complete evaluation of **first-time camper program** pilot and compare to other existing programs around the country.
- Develop model zoning language for peer-to-peer **tent sharing** services and assist communities willing to facilitate tent sharing programs.
- Develop immersive learning activities for children at North-South Lake Campground on cultural history, fishing, and watershed protection.
- Develop marketing materials to **promote campground amenities** (e.g., showers, washer/dryer) to long-dis-

tance hikers/bikers and consider a reduced fee for people entering campgrounds by foot or bicycle.

- Consider revising the NYC DEP application process for trail development support. Provide easy-to-find documentation online that helps potential applicants identify what type of projects have been supported in the past, what type of projects may be supported in the future, the agency's priorities, and what resources must be identified before applying
- **Adopt the PADCNR's approach to trail rating.**

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX E

APPENDIX F

Appendices

169 Appendix A: Survey Responses

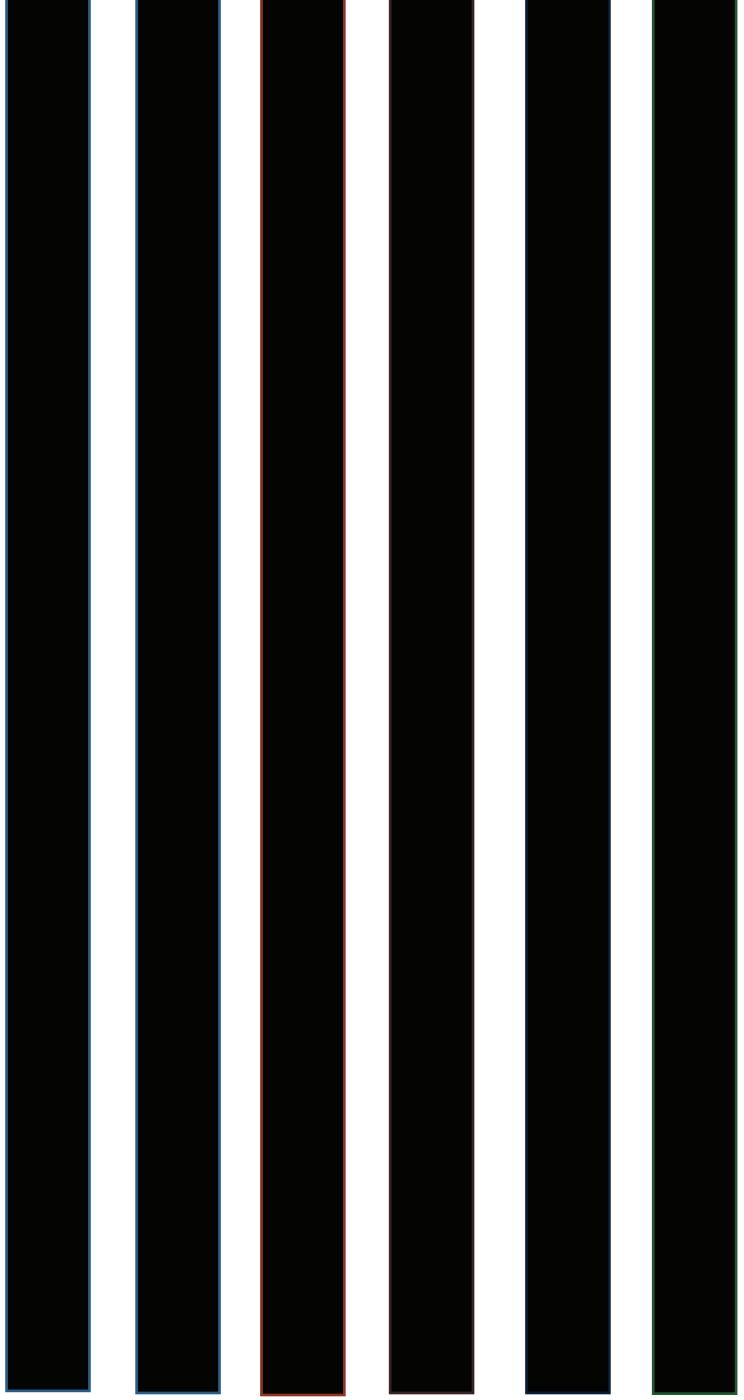
239 Appendix B: Survey Respondent Profiles

243 Appendix C: Public Feedback

267 Appendix D: Plan Review

283 Appendix E: Funding Sources

285 Appendix F: Public Comments and Responses



APPENDIX F APPENDIX E APPENDIX D APPENDIX C APPENDIX B APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

Survey Responses

1. Are you a full-time resident of the area? Please select one (790 responses, 3 skipped)
    a. I am a native, full-time resident (197 selected)
    b. I am a transplant, full-time resident (230 selected)
    c. I am a seasonal resident and/or second home owner (175 selected)
    d. I am a student attending college in the Catskill region (0 selected)
    e. I am a visitor (185 selected)
    f. I have never been to the Catskill Region (3 selected)
2. Approximately how often do you use outdoor (public land) recreational facilities within the Catskills? For example: boat launches, fishing, trails, public campgrounds, hunting, skiing, snowmobiling, etc. Please select one. (791 responses, 2 skipped)
    a. Daily (42 selected)
    b. A few times per week (128 selected)
    c. A few times per month (249 selected)
    d. A few times per year (206 selected)
    e. Seasonal use (155 selected)
    f. I have never used recreational facilities within the Catskills (7 selected)
    g. I'm not sure if where I go is in the Catskills (4 selected)
3. When you visit the Catskills, how long do you typically stay? Please select one (789 responses, 4 skipped)
    a. I am a full-time resident (357 selected)
    b. More than a week (46 selected)
    c. One week/5-7 days (58 selected)
    d. Weekend/2-3 days (192 selected)
    e. One night (12 selected)
    f. Day trip (121 selected)
    g. I have not visited the Catskills (3 selected)
4. I typically visit or participate in outdoor recreation in the Catskills at the selected frequency per season. (789 responses, 4 skipped)
    a. Winter (704 responses)
        i. Often (270 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (332 selected)
        iii. Never (102 selected)
    b. Spring (748 responses)
        i. Often (471 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (261 selected)
        iii. Never (16 selected)
    c. Summer (767 responses)
        i. Often (535 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (221 selected)
        iii. Never (11 selected)
    d. Fall (759 responses)
        i. Often (524 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (225 selected)
        iii. Never (10 selected)

5. Please select the type of group you travel with when visiting the Catskills (792 responses, 1 skipped)
    a. Travel alone (234 selected)
    b. Travel with friends (323 selected)
    c. Travel with my spouse/significant other (323 selected)
    d. Travel with family with at least one child under the age of 13 (119 selected)
    e. Travel with family where all children are over 13 years of age (113 selected)
    f. Does not apply to me (175 selected)
6. Which activities do you enjoy while in the Catskills? Select one response for each activity. (786 responses, 7 skipped)
    a. Walking/Jogging on trails or paths (675 responses)
        i. Often (335 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (276 selected)
        iii. I haven't but I want to (23 selected)
        iv. I haven't and I am not interested (41 selected)
    b. Hiking in mountains (710 responses)
        i. Often (300 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (322 selected)
        iii. I haven't but I want to (44 selected)
        iv. I haven't and I am not interested (44 selected)
    c. Bicycling on paved, stone dust, or natural surfaces (632 responses)
        i. Often (114 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (180 selected)
        iii. I haven't but I want to (158 selected)
        iv. I haven't and I am not interested (180 selected)
    d. Mountain biking (609 responses)
        i. Often (49 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (72 selected)
        iii. I haven't but I want to (140 selected)
        iv. I haven't and I am not interested (348 selected)
    e. Non-motorized water recreation such as kayaking, paddleboarding, canoeing, or tubing (658 responses)
        i. Often (152 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (272 selected)
        iii. I haven't but I want to (172 selected)
        iv. I haven't and I am not interested (62 selected)
    f. Motorized water recreation such as motorboat, wave runners, or jet skis (596 responses)
        i. Often (19 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (50 selected)
        iii. I haven't but I want to (123 selected)
        iv. I haven't and I am not interested (404 selected)
    g. Swimming (646 responses)
        i. Often (151 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (281 selected)
        iii. I haven't but I want to (97 selected)
        iv. I haven't and I am not interested (117 selected)
    h. Fishing (710 responses)
        i. Often (282 selected)

ii. Sometimes (193 selected)
iii. I haven't but I want to (95 selected)
iv. I haven't' and I am not interested (140 selected)

i. Ice Fishing (607 responses)
    i. Often (36 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (60 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (153 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (358 selected)
j. Horseback riding (598 responses)
    i. Often (10 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (63 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (172 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (353 selected)
k. Nature walk, scenic views, wildlife viewing, bird watching, or photography (675 responses)
    i. Often (245 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (297 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (80 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (53 selected)
l. Snowmobiling (606 responses)
    i. Often (26 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (54 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (104 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (422 selected)
m. ATV riding or dirt bike riding (611 responses)
    i. Often (56 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (54 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (100 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (401 selected)
n. Camping in an RV, tent, or cabin (636 responses)
    i. Often (129 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (258 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (111 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (138 selected)
o. Educational programs, learning centers, or nature centers (628 responses)
    i. Often (62 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (283 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (170 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (113 selected)
p. Snowshoeing or cross-country skiing (643 responses)
    i. Often (107 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (221 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (137 selected)
    iv. I haven't and I am not interested (178 selected)
q. Downhill skiing (624 responses)
    i. Often (102 selected)
    ii. Sometimes (139 selected)
    iii. I haven't but I want to (70 selected)

iv. I haven't and I am not interested (313 selected)

r. Hunting or trapping (666 responses)
   i. Often (182 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (89 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (66 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (329 selected)

s. Visiting cultural resources such as historic sites or museums (660 responses)
   i. Often (139 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (352 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (112 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (57 selected)

t. Picnicking, visiting parks, or visiting playgrounds (641 responses)
   i. Often (105 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (361 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (81 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (94 selected)

u. Festivals, concerts, retreats, or events (655 responses)
   i. Often (113 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (353 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (111 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (78 selected)

v. Dog park or pet-friendly trails (612 responses)
   i. Often (99 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (147 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (85 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (281 selected)

w. Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (574 responses)
   i. Often (6 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (17 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (74 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (477 selected)

x. Ziplining (604 responses)
   i. Often (6 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (42 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (186 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (370 selected)

y. Geocaching (587 responses)
   i. Often (10 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (48 selected)
   iii. I haven't but I want to (136 selected)
   iv. I haven't and I am not interested (393 selected)

z. Other. Please specify (87 responses)
   - Visiting gardens
   - Fishing the Cannonsville with electric motor
   - Bird watching
   - What is geocaching?
   - Triathlon-ing

- Camp on city watershed property… How much does NYC pay to buy Catskill property and why…
- Sketching and painting; walking along streams; nighttime star gazing
- Would like to do windsurfing on lakes
- Scenic train; especially good when older/disabled folks visit
- Dining out
- Painting nature pictures and murals
- I like bouldering
- Yoga, meditation
- Giving directions to lost pilgrims
- Ice Climbing/snowshoeing
- Sailing – I want to
- I live and work at Frost Valley YMCA on 5,500 acres hosting eco-tourists on weekends from Sept-June staying with reasonable rates, all lodging, meals, activities from Friday evening to Sunday noon for reasonable rates (about 25,000 people on weekends each year)
- Regular roadway bike paths would be wonderful. When moved here 48 years ago I used to bike to town, to the Rex field, to the fruit stand with my ten-year-old. Now there is more traffic and it seems every time they redo the roads, they get narrower. I would like to see permanent real-life-use bike paths. I think this would attract the type of residents and visitors most advantageous to our region.
- Foraging
- Rail bike interesting new thing
- Sail boating on the Ashokan Reservoir
- Citizen science/invasive species monitoring
- Time in Woodstock
- Drawing and painting. Plein-air painting.
- Geology
- Visiting Farmer's Markets and farms/orchards… pick your own fruit when available is a family favorite
- Walking the Windham Path
- Triathlon-ing
- Meditate, plein-air paint, backpack camp
- The most important activity for myself and every full-time resident that I know who recreates outdoors is mountain biking and general cycling and the DEP must open its land to accommodate this use.
- Riding trains. Trains are cool. Good for us older folks.
- I think motorized access for people with disabilities is important
- Golf
- We need more multi--use trails in Windham area
- Tryke with my disabled son who has Spina-Bifida
- Snowboarding
- 4 wheeling trails
- I haven't actually "enjoyed MAPPWD," – but I would like to be able to share more of the Catskills with my disabled family member.
- Shooting ranges

- Our family enjoys riding scenic trains through the beautiful Catskills. This is an activity that all 3 generations of our family can do together. We would love longer train trips and trains connecting towns in the Catskills.
- Birding
- Tourist train rides
- Riding local tourist train
- My wife and I will soon be moving to the Catskill area and there are lots of other things we would like to do. We have been coming up to the Catskills a half dozen or more times a year for 25 plus years now and there is still a lot we haven't done yet in the Hudson Valley.
- I enjoy the tourist railroads and their events often
- Riding railroads
- Train rides in Phoenicia
- Scenic rail
- Historic tourist themed train rides
- Train rides – frequently
- Simple relaxation (like a B&B)
- The maintenance of hiking trails and access to hunting lands are of the utmost importance to me and my family. Every year we drive up from Long Island to enjoy the peace and beauty of the Catskill region and enjoy all it has to offer. We also support the educational programs aimed at teaching the general public about native species of flora and fauna.
- Rail to trail, Catskill Mt. Railway right of way from Catskill to Palenville
- What about Catskill farming… farm stands… farmers' markets?
- Dining
- Farmers markets, maple weekends, dairy days
- Sailing
- Hiking
- Eagle watching
- Age prevents more activity
- I would like to see the DEP manage the properties for wildlife and especially to mange for young forest species
- Fly fishing is the best. I love it.
- Hunting
- Railroad
- We need trails for motorized off-road vehicles
- Archery, target shooting, golf, and festivals often
- Winery tours
- I would like to see easy Kayak entry
- Ice skating – sometimes
- Nature photography, 4x4 off-roading
- Mountain biking
- Work around my house
- Roller skating
- I'd like to hike with pack goats
- Plein-air painting

- I am handicapped and have a few boats on two reservoirs, we need more handicapped access to the boat access
- More kayaking please – specifically on Roundout Reservoir
- Rails with trails
- Bird watching
- Visiting micro-breweries and eateries
- Trail building and maintenance
- Fishing is the key activity
- Metal detecting
- Love the Belleayre region and swimming at Belleayre Beach. We need the resort there so there are accommodations for tourists!
- I do a lot of outdoor activity on my own property and fear too many tourists overtaking this quiet, peaceful area
- Yes dog-friendly trails please
- Property backs to State Land. I hike back there almost weekly.

7. Are there any areas within the Catskills that you find to be too crowded? Which area? Please describe. (498 responses, 295 skipped)
    - THE BLUE HOLE
    - I'm not in those areas
    - Blue Hole, Overlook fire tower
    - none
    - no
    - no
    - Not in my experience so far
    - kaaterskill falls, slide mountain
    - Latter skill Falls, Colgate Lake
    - None
    - Kaaterskill Falls
    - Slide Mountain, Giant Ledges
    - Upper Delaware Scenic Area
    - Blue Hole, North South Lake, etc.
    - Blue Hole
    - kaaterskill falls /north/south lake campground
    - Not really
    - some trails and streams
    - big indian
    - No.
    - the eastern half
    - N/A
    - no
    - Minnewaska, The Blue Hole
    - Kaaterskill Falls
    - n/a
    - Blue Hole Too many people, too much trash
    - Tubing areas along the Esopus
    - Peekamoose Blue Hole
    - no

- Hudson valley
- none
- Slide Mountain, Panther, Giant Ledge
- No
- None really
- Blue Hole! Enough said.
- Blue Hole, Giant Ledge
- Blue hole at Peekamoose
- None found yet.
- no
- No
- Minnewaska (not really Catskills)
- na
- No
- Blue hole
- no
- no
- all of them
- No
- Yes - Some fishing area are very crowded in the spring.
- most of it. you need to know where the less traveled paths are.
- Overlook Mountain Trail
- Kaaterskill falls
- none
- None
- No
- Some of the watering holes are very overcrowded with many people drinking alcohol and smoking.
- None
- None
- Blue hole
- No
- Blue Hole; Slide Mountain Trail
- Kaaterskill Falls trail is always packed; we avoid on weekends
- Major state parks on weekends. Easily accessed trails like Katterskill falls
- All of the more popular places - Slide, Kaaterskill - I avoid those areas and look for more remote trails.
- None
- Kaaterskill Falls
- All During the Summer
- No
- Blue Hole
- Slide Mt
- not so far
- No
- no
- none

- Woodstock, especially in summer
- Overlook Trail
- Blue hole on Watson Hollow Road
- Cemetary pool
- no
- Hamlets
- Blue Hole
- Closer to Metro NYS = too crowded
- Overlook Mountain parking area.
- Blue Hole
- Wherever there are free facilities open to the public, there will be overuse as we are now seeing in many places.
- Roads and hiways
- Blue hole and Peekamoose campground
- Slide Mtn on weekends, special fishing areas (Beaverkill, Willowemoc,etc...)
- Blue Hole, Hemlock Hole, Giant Ledge trail
- Mohonk
- Blue Hole
- Blue Hole, Sundown, Town of Denning, Catskills Park
- Colgate Lake on weekends, hiking trail parking areas, towns during events
- I've heard about places like Blue Hole - but mostly go places I know that are rarely "crowded"
- Blue hole; Caterskill Falls
- Woodstock Traffic terrible
- Route 28, Woodstock/Summer
- No
- I love the Mt Tremper trail, but so does everyone else :-)
- Parking areas when there is a special event such as Shandaken Day, July 4, Labor Day, Octoberfest, Festival of the Voice, special events in the towns. Also the Pine Hill parking lot on weekend nights.
- Woodstock on the weekends
- No
- the lake at belleayre
- everywhere on weekends
- some of the swimming holes
- Some of the campgrounds are crowded.
- The Bluehole
- swimming
- I avoided going to Blue Hole last summer due to reports of over-crowding.
- By Hunter/Windham. Let people stay there. I would like to see Sundown, Bluestone, and other forest areas developed further. Also more cleared slopes for backcountry skiing. And more backcountry camping spots and shelters.
- Kaaterskill Falls Palenville
- None
- n/a
- Overlook, Blue Hole, Giant Ledge
- No

- no
- none
- Kaaterskill Falls
- Kaaterskill Falls/Clove, Platte Clove area
- none
- No
- I have heard that High Falls has a litter problem near the waterfall due to tourists spending the day there.
- North/South Lake peak season
- Belleayre Mountain
- Blue Hole, Huckleberry Point
- Blue Hole Peekamoose
- Kaaterskill Falls
- None.
- Kaaterskill Falls
- Route 23A when cars are lined alopnmg the road so people can walk to the falls. It is a complete disater and the finger pointing needs to end. Our community and natural areas suffer.
- no
- mohonk mtn area
- Kaaterskill Falls
- Overlook mountain is a possibility on weekends
- None I visited
- Not where I hike
- woodstock
- None
- North Lake, Woodland Valley, Alder Lake
- No
- none
- tops of popular mountains ,i.e. slide , overlook , giant ledge ,balsam lake mt.
- Can't think of any.
- Blue Hole, Kaaterskill Falls
- hunter mountain
- Kaaterskill Fall area
- Peekamoose Blue Hole
- Katterskil Falls
- Platte Clove road and Big Blue in the summer
- it is a shame how people from the city/New Jersey/long Island leave debris along water ways/streams
- Colgate Lake, E. Jewett, NY and North Lake during summer
- The following hiking trails are overcrowded on weekends: Giant Ledge Trail, Devil's Path Trail, Slide Mtn. Trail
- Bastion Falls
- All state park areas
- Phoenicia & Woodstock area
- Minnewaska, The Blue Hole
- Kaaterskill Clove & Platte Clove road traffic is insane.

- The 3500 trails are becoming crowded
- None
- Kaaterskill Falls during the weekend.
- Colgate lake Andrew north lake. Due to limited lakes/waters for recreation
- Kaaterskill Falls, the parking lot usually is full
- Not sure. I think I avoid them
- The fun loops are always packed with mtn bikers. which is awesome and just shows we need more trails
- Kaaterskill Falls and North South Lake area
- No, there are not enough people to provide a sustainable economy for those of us who live here and the DEP must work to open their land to popular recreational uses; in particular, all forms of cycling.
- Windham
- Most of them are too filled with cityits. Filthy too. Peekammose for one.
- none, love the area!
- State Rt 23A near Kaaterskill Falls, it's dangerous for pedestrians. Parking in devil's kitchen on Co. Rt. 16 is also iffy. I haven't been to North/South Lake in the summer in a few years because of the crowds, but I think its a good thing.
- Slide Mountain trails
- North South Lake and Kaaterskill Falls
- Route 23A Kaaterskill Falls - parking lots and road
- no
- Kaaterskill falls at RT 23a
- Breakneck Turn between Palenville and Haines Falls
- no
- route 28
- Phoenicia, Windham
- none
- none
- ski areas
- Ski areas, some of the lake/campsites
- windham path needs more trails
- Kaaterskill Falls
- none where I go
- fORESTS have the close potential of over-use (e.g. herd trails on some of the 3500 peaks)
- No
- none
- no
- NO
- Loaded Question
- None
- Kaaterskill falls and surrounding area
- rt 28
- Hunter Mountain Ski Area
- Colgate Lake, Kaaterskill Falls
- I tend to avoid Peekamoose Blue Hole & Kaaterskill Falls in summer.

- Kaaterskill Falls (top and bottom), Colgate Lake, Platte Clove
- none
- most of the 3500 peaks, Blue Hole, etc
- Blue Hole, Ver Nooy Kill, most areas any more
- Overlook (and some other hiking trails); traffic
- none
- No
- Blue Hole, Peekamoose
- Blue hole, slide mountain
- Anywhere there's recreational swimming.
- none
- Kaaterskill
- No
- no
- Blue hole
- Sullivan county
- East & West Branch Delaware below the dams-too much fishing pressure.
- no
- the well publicized swimming holes and hiking trails
- no
- Kaaterskill Falls, which has parking a distance away from the trailhead, both located on a busy windy road
- Route 28 is too busy with traffic, it would be great to have a train going north or a ski train leaving from Kingston.
- Nope
- none
- Phoenecia Diner on a weekend :-)
- Kaaterskill Falls, North-South Lake, High Peaks trails and trailheads. Hunter, Phoenicia, Windham areas.
- Pepacton reservoir boat launches
- No
- Katerskill Falls
- No
- North-South Lake
- no
- no
- Giant Ledges, Slide Mtn, Witenberg Mtn.
- no
- Ashoka resivoir and walkway over the Hudson
- Hunter, Woodstock. Many tourist not enough parking.
- none
- No
- Woodstock area but that’s only at peak season times and events
- Sun down region
- Peekamoose Blue Hole
- Most small towns difficult to find parking and rest rooms
- The trails.

- Overlook Fire Tower. Hunter Fire Tower. The hiking trails in general are overwhelmed with inexperienced "hikers".
- Popular areas like Katterskill falls
- Woodstock
- Railroads. There needs to be more of them
- Kaaterskill Falls
- No
- Yes. Kaaterskill Falls, Peekamoose and others
- Only North Lake Campground area
- No
- Blue Hole
- Kaaterskill Falls, Slide Mt trail, Giant Ledge,
- None
- Some of the eastern Catskill areas from Memorial to Labor Day. Campgrounds, Trailheads, etc..
- Slide (and others) in the Summer - that is why we go Spring/Fall and early/late winter.
- eastern part, phoenicia, woodstock areas
- NO
- North/south lake.
- Depends on the day
- Not if you go during weekends
- City of Kingston are along Hudson
- The blue hole
- North and South Lake campground, Phoenicia on Weekends, Katterskills Falls.
- all
- No
- no
- Populare swim holes like Blue Hole
- We are basically in Delaware County so not too crowded
- Hunter in winter, Roscoe- Livingstone Manor-Lewbeach in summer
- No
- Some hiking trails-Slide Mtn.
- no
- North Lake Campground on the weekend
- North Lake/Kaaterskill Falls
- Giant Ledge, Slide Mt
- high peaks trails, state camp grounds, Kaaterskill Clove, Platte Clove, etc.....
- No
- Not during the times I usually visit
- Woodstock & the hiking trail across from the monastary
- No
- Phoenicia
- Slide Mtn
- Catskill forest preserve
- none
- Minekill pool, john burroughs memorial, pine hill lake
- Hunter Mtn region, Katterskill Falls

- N/A
- Kaaterskill Falls
- I have never encountered crowds.
- none - that's why I have a place here
- Giant Ledge Parking Lot
- Vernooy falls. People at every level, yet no parking to hike in.
- blue hole swimming area
- no
- no
- The blue hole! So sad
- car campgrounds, worn out land and facilities
- no
- None
- No
- north south lake, kaaterskill falls, slide mountain
- Trails to Slide,Overlook,Giant Ledge,Kaaterskill Falls
- NO
- no
- Overlook mountain trailhead parking area
- None
- anywhere I see people
- Not really
- Yes. Trails are over run to the point locals stay away.
- delaware river system- fly fishing
- Mountian in New Paltz
- Blue hole
- Harriman State Park
- North and South lakes (Camping and day triping)
- Not Really, maybe woodstock & phoenicia
- no
- No
- Overlook Mt.
- Blue Hole Swimming Area is out of control. You should start charging for camping and ticket more for littering
- Blue Hole
- No
- MONTICELLO
- depends on the time of day and year
- No
- Mohonk
- Na
- No
- West Settlement Road and surrounding areas.
- North and South lake. COLGATE LAKE
- Blue hole
- I stay away from crowded areas. Blue Hole, Overlook, Giant Ledge
- No problems there is a lot of places to go away from people

- Blue hole
- none
- No, not crowded at all
- North south lake and Bear mountain
- No they are all fine
- not yet :P
- esopus creek area, Rt 23A from Palenville to Haines falls
- blue hole has been ruined most likely forever since it was publicized on mass media
- main streets of Woodbourne and South Fallsburg in the summer
- Overlook mt trail in Woodstock
- Woodstock
- na
- Some sections of the the Delaware river.
- None
- No
- None
- Some of the popular hiking trails and swimming holes can get very crowded, such as kaaterskill falls and the swimming holes in woodstock, but I avoid the crowded places.
- no
- no
- Peekamoose Blue Hole
- no
- Borderline at times
- No
- No
- no
- yes
- No
- Trailheads on summer weekends
- State campgrounds on weekend in the summer.
- Blue Hole near Peekamoose
- Peekamoose Blue Hole
- None
- no
- NA
- swim holes, fishing spots, ashokan
- no
- None
- none
- none
- no I think that's what we like the best about it.
- North Lake
- No, I simply avoid areas where there might be crowds.
- no
- Peekamoose Blue Hole--see below.
- no
- none

- No
- No
- In the summer biking around the Ashokan
- Ashokan Reservior opening weekend of whitetail deer rifle season
- Hunter
- Esopus Creek
- Blue Hole
- Ski mountains on weekends
- I avoid crowded areas
- no
- Anyplace near a ski slope has been destroyed by over population
- Blue Hole, of course
- campgrounds
- Windam, Hunter
- no
- No
- NOT TOO CROWDED
- no
- Giant Ledge Hiking Trail
- Rt 28 corridor from Dunraven to Hurley
- No
- No
- Depends on the season but there is always a quiet place to be found.
- not familiar enough to say
- trout fishing Delaware River
- none
- North/ South Lake trails in summer/fall
- None
- ashokan walkway on weekends
- Blue Hole, denning. Locals dump garbage, visitors ruin sides of the road by parking
- not really
- OVERLOOK TRIAL
- Blue Hole, trailheads near Phoenicia, kaaterskill falls, Woodstock!
- n/a
- Hiking trails are to crowded. We need more
- white lake
- North/South Lake and the nearby trails by Kaaterskill
- Overlook Mtn
- Bear Mountain
- none
- Katerskill Falls
- I have dog allergies so I avoid areas where they are
- Peakamoose/Blue Hole
- Blue hole
- not sure where any area are located
- Peekamoose Blue Hole. I'm sure you are all aware, but that place has become an absolute disgrace.

- No
- Not where I go
- none
- DEP Access Lands during Hunting Season
- no
- Weekends traffic route 28 and 87
- Blue Hole on the Peekamoose Road
- Nope!
- Neversink "Blue Hole".
- Colgate Lake, high peaks trailhead parking areas (eg, parking areas on Spruceton Rd)
- certain trailheads are sometimes crowded but once you start hiking--I'm usually out there "alone"
- Parks some times crowded
- I have not run into that.
- Peekamoose campgrounds, minnewaska state park
- Along peekamoose road
- Some hunting areas are
- Overlook Mtn., Blue Hole, Kaaterskill Falls
- Beaverkill & WB Delaware rivers crowded by anglers
- none
- None that I visit
- none
- NONE
- no
- no
- Small State land sights can become over crowded.
- Swimming wholes
- No.
- I only attend during non-peak times
- No
- No
- birch creek/pine hill area
- Overlook Mountain
- Blue Hole
- Thruway Glens falls to Kingston
- no
- No
- no
- Giant Ledge
- No
- Yes, I fear over crowding, especially in and around Woodstock
- Kataskill Falls
- All state campgrounds, katterskill falls, blue hole
- Route 17
- The Blue Hole
- North South lake in the summer
- Kaaterskill Falls, Blue Hole

- Woodland valley campgrounds and trails
- no
- Route 28
- Blue Hole
- Besides Hunter Mountain Ski Center on a Saturday, I never find it to be too crowded.
- Blue hole.
- Kaaterskill Falls parking lot
- No
- None
- Hunter mtn on the weekends (please fix this ;)
- Sometimes Minnewaska
- Woodstock
- Beaverkill River
- None
- None
- No
- No
- N/A
- None
- no
- Some popular trails to waterfalls are often crowded on weekends but during the week there are no big crowds.
- High Peaks
- Woodstock
- blue hole
- Blue Hill
- Yes. Overlook, Giant Ledge, Slide, Blackheads. Also Woodstock village.

8. How much money do you typically spend in a day when visiting the Catskills, not including lodging? Please select one. (787 responses, 6 skipped)
    a. $0-20 (114 selected)
    b. $21-50 (199 selected)
    c. $51-100 (180 selected)
    d. $101-200 (86 selected)
    e. More than $200 (19 selected)
    f. Does not apply to me (189 selected)
9. How much money do you typically spend on lodging per night when visiting the Catskills? Please select one. (782 responses, 11 skipped)
    a. $0-20 (70 selected)
    b. $21-50 (35 selected)
    c. $51-100 (65 selected)
    d. $101-200 (80 selected)
    e. More than $200 (10 selected)
    f. Does not apply to me (522 selected)
10. Which types of lodging do you use during your trip(s) to the Catskills if you stay overnight? Select one response for each lodging type. (647 responses, 146 skipped)
    a. Day trip; visitor or resident – select never (538 responses)
        i. Often (74 selected)

ii. Sometimes (67 selected)
iii. Never (397 selected)

b. Stay with family/friends (456 responses)
   i. Often (75 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (88 selected)
   iii. Never (293 selected)
c. Tent/campsite (467 responses)
   i. Often (74 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (186 selected)
   iii. Never (207 selected)
d. RV/RV Park (426 responses)
   i. Often (22 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (36 selected)
   iii. Never (368 selected)
e. Cabin rental (442 responses)
   i. Often (22 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (97 selected)
   iii. Never (323 selected)
f. Lodge (424 responses)
   i. Often (14 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (76 selected)
   iii. Never (334 selected)
g. Bed & Breakfast (427 responses)
   i. Often (12 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (82 selected)
   iii. Never (333 selected)
h. Hotel (435 responses)
   i. Often (19 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (86 selected)
   iii. Never (330 selected)
i. Motel (443 responses)
   i. Often (31 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (101 selected)
   iii. Never (311 selected)
j. Airbnb/Homeaway/VRBO/Other home sharing service (427 responses)
   i. Often (21 selected)
   ii. Sometimes (55 selected)
   iii. Never (351 selected)
k. Other. Please specify (131 responses)
   - does not apply. I live here.
   - Solitude Inn, Chamberlain Brook Road
   - None
   - Does not apply - resident
   - pull to the side of the road, near state / county dpw, walk in pitch a tent
   - I own my own home in Catskills, I woul occasionally stay in hotel or BB if going far from my home
   - Resident

- Formerly ran a B&B.
- i own land
- We stayed in a wide variety of places for 7 years before buying our own.
- I own my own weekend place in the Catskills
- My house
- Home
- small inns
- na
- Own home
- Full time resident
- I live here and the cost of living plus taxes, insurance, mortgage, etc is spent here in Ulster County, NY
- I live in the Catskills
- camp out in forests, usually with only hammock
- I live here.
- Own my own cottage
- Own home
- My own home
- i live here
- i live here
- Own my own property/cabin
- home owner
- resident
- Live here
- own home
- Full time residence pay taxes
- I am a full time resident
- I live here
- rent house
- I live here but sometimes go camping nearby
- Onteora Scout Reservation in Livingston Manor
- I live in the Catskills
- Secondary homeowner - private residence
- Family and friends often stay with us or use all of the above facilities. Many have rented places or bought homes after visiting us.
- resident
- I live here and your survey does not provide an appropriate selection for this and several other questions.
- Live here
- own an second home in the Catskills so we stay there
- Home.
- my own weekend house
- own house
- own home
- own second home in Catskills
- I have my own 2nd home in the catskills
- Own a cabin

- I own a home
- I live in the Catskills
- own a second home in the Catskills
- jull time resident
- We own a home
- I own a home in Grahamsville
- Own cabin and property
- weekend home
- N/A
- I'm a full time resident
- seasonal home owner
- We have a few cabins we rent a few times a year.
- I own a home.
- personal cabin
- Does not apply to me
- Have property with an RV which is seasonal. Winter I stay at a local motel.
- Second Home
- NA
- Resident - I go home for lunch or dinner
- Own a summer home in S. Cairo
- Own a home
- My camp
- my private resident
- I stay with friends then buy them dinner
- I live in the area
- My house
- I have my own home
- I usually sleep in the back of my van.
- Does not apply
- I have a place in Andes
- LIve in area
- I stay in my own home or visit friends in winter.
- my own house
- have a house
- my cottage
- does not apply to me
- Own my own home
- Camp in forest preserve/ lean-to
- Have own home
- duh - I live here
- I live here.
- I live here full time but my family members often use hotels and airbnb
- our seasonal house
- Doesn't apply to me!
- Own property and house
- I own my cabin
- own a home

- we have our own residence there
- I live here year round
- We own a seasonal home
- our cabin
- I own a cabin
- Resident
- we have a vacation home but also spend a week in an all inclusive resort
- My own home
- i own
- own home
- I love living here
- hunting cabin
- Tent in allowed areas along hiking trails
- I'm a second homeowner
- I own my home
- I selected Often for Day Trip even though I'm a resident. We regularly travel well beyond our Catskills locale to experience others. We "stay-cation"
- DOES NOT APPLY
- I live here
- I have a seasonal home that I use as well - (I think this should have been a choice)
- own the cabin
- HUNTING CAMP
- My home
- Own home.
- My own camp
- Does not apply to me
- I own my home
- own a cabin
- Have a house but stayed at Susan's pleasant pheasant farm and lodge near Belleayre when house was getting repaired. Need more lodging for people!
- I own property and live here full time
- NA
- We have a cabin

11. When you are in the Catskills, how do you navigate throughout the area? Select all that apply (773 responses, 20 skipped)
    a. GPS/Mobile Phone – and it works great (179 selected)
    b. GPS/Mobile Phone – but it's spotty (326 selected)
    c. Online resources (195 selected)
    d. I use signage within the Catskills – and it's great (153 selected)
    e. I use signage within the Catskills – but it needs improvement (188 selected)
    f. Brochure with a Catskills-specific map (221 selected)
    g. Road map (325 selected)
    h. I wish there was a single, comprehensive trip planning resource online (69 selected)
    i. I wish there was a mobile app to aid in trip planning and navigation (105 selected)
12. Did a specific event bring you to the Catskills? If so, please indicate the event that drew you to the Catskills. Select all that apply. (744 responses, 49 skipped)
    a. No (401 selected)

b. Wedding (19 selected)
c. Family reunion/group trip (43 selected)
d. Holiday weekend (69 selected)
e. Food events (49 selected)
f. Music events (80 selected)
g. Community celebration events (38 selected)
h. Seasonal celebration events (57 selected)
i. Athletic events (25 selected)
j. Bicycling events (24 selected)
k. Mountain biking events (24 selected)
l. Motorcycle/motor bike events (7 selected)
m. Arts, crafts, cultural events (75 selected)
n. Other. Please specify. (232 selected)
    - My husband's family (the O'Carrolls and Biondo) has owned property in Boiceville since 1922.
    - friends
    - fishing the Cannonsville with the electric motor
    - Employment
    - I live in the Catskills
    - My job
    - Employment
    - My family spent many summers there for decades. My uncle had property there as well
    - trout fishing
    - Family moved here.
    - open spaces and a Compass
    - originally, we were drawn to the Catskills by Belleayre Mountain
    - Blueberry picking :), group hike
    - Traditional fishing club week-weekend
    - Hunting
    - Family vacations so nice childhood
    - Coming here as a child
    - Fishing
    - Hunting and fishing as a youth
    - Historic sites and special star gazing events.
    - Fishing
    - Hunting, Fishing, Camping, Backpacking trips.
    - big game hunting
    - fly fishing
    - Catskill Kayak Fishing Jamboree
    - Climbing in the gunks
    - Trout Unlimited chapter trip
    - my work brings me to the Catskills
    - Work
    - Hunting and fishing
    - Employment
    - I was born here and my parents were here because of the arts, & nice place to live

- Camping
- Working to protect Catskill Park
- Zen Mountain Monastery
- Hiking Meetups app
- We were campers at Beaverkill, and visited someone who lived in Sundown. My father bought a cabin on a few acres. Now four generations later, our family is still here.
- Employment
- Work
- I have lived and worked at Frost Valley YMCA for 15 years
- Friends living here. 1970
- literary event in Woodstock
- I live here... but I checked events that my guests or I have enjoyed.
- Family connection
- I live here
- Monastery
- I live here. I came to visit and thought it was beautiful.
- skiing and dancing
- Spiritual retreat
- Fishing
- Work - Inspecting Bridges
- bringing child to college
- Originally backpacking and camping
- walleye fishing
- Hunting, skiing, fishing
- Luck of birthplace
- Trout fishing
- Fishing the Pepacton reservoir
- visiting friends
- Hiking
- Came up for seasonal work... never left
- Former job; I used to live and work full-time in the Catskills.
- I was born here
- Fishing
- avid skier
- Born here - Went away for a while and came home
- Scouting
- Hiking events. Trail running events.
- plentiful fishing places
- Blueberry picking :)
- second home
- Hunting and Fishing Seasons
- skiing
- Windham World Cup, round top MTB race
- The quite mountains
- CMRR foliage ride - many times
- The great outdoors themselves - no further reason needed

- Hiking
- fly fishing
- own home
- Friend invited us up for the week.
- Hiking
- summer job
- I started coming with friends 40 years ago and then purchased a home and have enjoyed the area ever since.
- Grew up with spending summers in bungalows and hotels ... ski regularly @ Hunter, Windham, Platterkill...
- skiing
- a friend moved here and I visited and fell in love
- because they're there
- Hiking
- Hiking the Finger Lakes Trail
- fishing
- My father purchased land there and build a home
- job/work
- job
- Catskill Mountain Railroad scenic trips in Mount Tremper /and theme trains in Kingston.
- Fishing
- hunting
- I came 42 years ago. We wanted to get out of the metro area and had a good friend who lived in the Catskills. I went to college at Oneonta State.
- rail rides
- a love of mountains and the out of doors!
- family is from the area
- Skiing
- Train ride
- Climbing the high peaks brought me to the Catskills many years ago when I first started driving.
- Fishing the NYC DEP Reservoirs
- Timberlake camp Shandaken love the area since 1974
- Polar Express and weekend rides, CMRR, Dinner train on the D&URR
- Hunting & fishing
- Craft beer and cigars
- Hiking, camping, backpacking.
- Hiking
- Catskill Mountain Railroad
- Train rides
- Scenic rail events
- Tourist Trains, Historic Events
- Catskill Mountain Railroad and Railroad Museum
- hunting/fishing
- Hiking
- Lark in the Park (CMC event in the fall)

- When my father brought me up from Long Island when I was about 8 years old. Have been coming up ever since. Even bought property.
- Hunting
- Hunting and then second home
- Family home, Sailing
- Hiking
- Scenery
- Conference
- visiting friends
- I helped build the Phoenicia East Branch Trail.
- Second home
- Few up in the Catskills - still love it. Hiking and deer hunting are main attractions.
- Hiking when a teenager
- The mountains themselves
- meetup.com events
- Skiing
- Lived in re Catskills for over 40 years
- My house
- visiting friends who owned homes in Catskills
- Hiking
- family visit
- I am climbing all of the 3000' peaks in the Park
- None - Pocono's too crowded, Adirondack too far away
- hiking the mountains
- Hiking trips sponsored by my local hiking club.
- Skiing
- hiking
- walking
- no
- hiking
- hunting brought my husband here, the beauty kept us here
- Just the mountains
- Fishing and backpacking
- I live here
- fly fishing
- Live here
- Fishing & Boating
- Former full-time resident. Visit friends and family
- Catskill 100 Highest
- Hunting
- hunting
- Camping trip when I was young
- have a home
- long time visitor
- Live here
- Hunting and fishing
- To purchase property years ago

- Fly fishing
- Hunting and Fishing
- work
- born here
- Family member owned property
- I fly fish the streams and rivers throughout the Catskill.
- Hunting
- Hunting and sportsman/women events
- rock climbing in the gunks
- Fishing
- fly fishing
- hunting trip
- Hunting & Fishing
- Fishing trip
- Ski resort / Adaptive Sports Center Windham + annual family vacation
- hunting seasons, e.g. grouse and woodcock, spring turkey
- hunting/fishing
- Hunting and fishing
- Fishing
- Fishing Club Trips
- Birth
- Hunting Season
- fly hatches
- Fly Fishing
- Fishing hunting
- Retirement
- I was born there
- HUNTING AND FISHING
- I moved here from California due to the work on Elm Ridge and WARF
- hunting
- fly fishing
- Gatherings of friends and acquaintances
- hunting season
- Fishing
- Family bought property back in the 1950's
- fishing
- Extended family lived in the area since WWII
- Hiking, hunting and fishing
- Hunting, Fishing and Trapping
- Hunting, fishing
- JOB!
- hiking the peaks
- My dad brought to the Catskills for a fishing trip when i was very young.
- Hunting, built 2nd home
- Came once on vacation and have been returning since 1976 esp. for fishing but children/grandchildren share pleasure here
- HUNTING

- Hunting Fishing enjoying the scenery
- Fly fishing season
- Past Resident
- resident
- I was born in Margaretville.
- I live here.
- Camping out
- Fly Fishing - Family Camping
- Longyear gallery
- fishing
- work
- family owned property
- Hunting and Backpacking
- Family purchased a hunting lodge - old Hotel - in 1959.
- Job working for NYCDEP
- My job.
- Fly Fishing
- Fishing / turkey hunting
- Fishing seasons
- Fly tying classes
- Family outings

13. Have you visited the Catskill Interpretive Center? Please select one. (781 responses, 12 skipped)
    a. Yes (255 selected)
    b. No (399 selected)
    c. Was not aware of the Catskill Interpretive Center (147 selected)
    d. The Catskill Interpretive Center has not been open during my visits (10 selected)
14. How do you get your information about the recreational opportunities in the Catskills? Please select one response for each. (752 responses, 41 skipped)
    a. Social media, Instagram, Facebook, etc. (567 responses)
        i. Often (161 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (209 selected)
        iii. Never (197 selected)
    b. Web Search (644 responses)
        i. Often (288 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (312 selected)
        iii. Never (44 selected)
    c. Visitthecatskills.com (514 responses)
        i. Often (56 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (159 selected)
        iii. Never (299 selected)
    d. Greatwesterncatskills.com (490 responses)
        i. Often (26 selected)
        ii. Sometimes (85 selected)
        iii. Never (379 selected)
    e. Greatnortherncatskills.com (489 responses)

i. Often (27 selected)
ii. Sometimes (90 selected)
iii. Never (372 selected)

f. Ulstercountyalive.com (501 responses)
i. Often (31 selected)
ii. Sometimes (107 selected)
iii. Never (363 selected)

g. Sullivancatskills.com (484 responses)
i. Often (25 selected)
ii. Sometimes (70 selected)
iii. Never (389 selected)

h. New York State Parks – Reserve America website (524 responses)
i. Often (68 selected)
ii. Sometimes (190 selected)
iii. Never (266 selected)

i. DEC.NY.gov (605 responses)
i. Often (185 selected)
ii. Sometimes (305 selected)
iii. Never (115 selected)

j. IloveNY.com/places-to-go/catskills (484 responses)
i. Often (31 selected)
ii. Sometimes (119 selected)
iii. Never (334 selected)

k. Print publication, magazine, newspaper (572 responses)
i. Often (164 selected)
ii. Sometimes (302 selected)
iii. Never (106 selected)

l. Friend, family member, neighbor (583 responses)
i. Often (224 selected)
ii. Sometimes (276 selected)
iii. Never (83 selected)

m. Radio (497 responses)
i. Often (49 selected)
ii. Sometimes (150 selected)
iii. Never (298 selected)

n. Drove by the recreation resource (499 responses)
i. Often (72 selected)
ii. Sometimes (244 selected)
iii. Never (183 selected)

o. I found out by visiting the Catskill Interpretive Center (470 responses)
i. Often (21 selected)
ii. Sometimes (70 selected)
iii. Never (379 selected)

p. Other. Please specify (94 responses)
- Catskill 3500 Club, Catskill Hiker website; Catskill Mountaineer website
- DEP and DEC
- pick a local road on the map, see what's there.

- Hiking books and NY/NJ Trail conference
- Trail Maps
- Not enough to get me out often enough. It is a complex area with so many mountain ranges and different ways to get to the trail heads.
- Through organizations like Trout Unlimited, Back Country Hunters and Fishers and Catskills Fly Fishing Museum
- New York New Jersey Trail Conference Trail Maps
- dep
- What is the Catskill Interpretive Center?
- We own a small newspaper, and get most info from press releases sent to us.
- I've been coming to the Catskills since 1965
- Catskill Park map
- Catskill mountain guide, chronogram
- word of mouth
- sceniccatskills.com cm scenic byway, rte 28
- Word-of-mouth
- Flyers on bulletin boards in post offices, libraries, etc.
- Brochures
- Heart of the Catskills website or fb page, related to the cat-n-around-catskill art project
- WAVE and CRISP
- none
- Catskill Mountain Club emails/digital newsletters
- Internet - Hudson Valley One
- been here 33 years
- New York-New Jersey Trail Conference nynjtc.org
- nynjtc.org
- Word of mouth, roadside ads
- Windham Arts Alliance Newsletter
- literature from novels and fine books
- Windham Weekly Newspaper
- This survey question just gave me a bunch of new resources!
- I would like to increase my awareness of these informational sites.
- Brochures at rest stops
- none
- Maps, guidebooks, hiking clubs.
- I'm an explorer
- The many local publications and newspapers are great sources of local info.
- 43 years of camp fishing photography and Brios pizza in Phoenicia
- Taking the rides on the Railroads and talking to other riders.
- Ticket Agent on the Catskill Mountain Railroad tells me stuff to do
- Amtrak NY Rail
- Books on hiking the Catskills
- Catskill 3500 Club, CMC
- too many websites
- none of the above
- Catskill Mountain News
- www.trailkeeper.org, www.catskillhiker.net

- Mountain Top Historical Society webpage
- Hiking guidebooks and trail maps, hiking specific websites
- meetup.com
- 3500 club
- WIOX radio is invaluable!
- printed publications
- Catskill mountain club website
- Hiking books and maps.....been hiking in the Catskills for 40 years
- CIC is a good rest stop. Otherwise nothing worthwhile there.
- I use my brains
- I live here. And hate the Catskill Interpretive Center
- USGS river flows and local fly-fishing websites
- Guide Books
- common sites that I have been to previously
- NYCDEP website
- Friends of the Beaverkill Community.com
- Captain Adrian LaSorte
- NYC DEP
- Windham Journal
- I have been a summer visitor for 45 years
- fishing friends
- various local clubs email/newsletters
- Printed Trail Guides and Maps.
- Fishing club event planner
- Trout Unlimited
- Ulster county parcel viewer
- family
- New York New Jersey Trail Conference
- Catskill forest association
- Talking to locals / business owners or employees
- Live here
- NYNJTC, maps, hiking clubs
- NY/NJ Trail Conference maps
- Live here
- ?
- NYNJ Trail Conference, Catskill 3500 Club
- I also subscribe the Conservationist magazine.
- hiking clubs, e.g. Catskill Mountain Club
- Catskill Country free mag was very helpful
- why aren't any of the survey questions for local?
- Catskill Mountain News
- CC&D
- Carol O'Beirne sends newsletter
- Friends
- trout unlimited, seth green Chapter
- Map

15. Do you follow the Catskills on any of the following social media platforms? (753 responses, 40 skipped)
    a. Instagram (526 responses)
        a) Often (43 selected)
        b) Sometimes (42 selected)
        c) Never (441 selected)
    b. Facebook (582 responses)
        a) Often (125 selected)
        b) Sometimes (140 selected)
        c) Never (317 selected)
    c. YouTube (520 responses)
        a) Often (22 selected)
        b) Sometimes (74 selected)
        c) Never (424 selected)
    d. Google+ (517 responses)
        a) Often (26 selected)
        b) Sometimes (80 selected)
        c) Never (411 selected)
    e. Twitter (502 responses)
        a) Often (10 selected)
        b) Sometimes (13 selected)
        c) Never (479 selected)
    f. E-Newsletters (573 responses)
        a) Often (117 selected)
        b) Sometimes (230 selected)
        c) Never (226 selected)
    g. I do not use social media, select never (448 responses)
        a) Often (35 selected)
        b) Sometimes (82 selected)
        c) Never (331 selected)
    h. Other. Please specify. (37 responses)
        - NYDEP site
        - Meetup
        - Still not enough really
        - only some groups i belong to
        - Catskill Mountain news sometimes
        - I do use social media?
        - information on a brochure rack at Frost Valley YMCA
        - No
        - Phoenicia Diner's Instagram feed
        - conservationist six times a year
        - Trail Conference social media and E-Walker newsletter
        - Don't use any
        - DEP newsletter online
        - Tumblr
        - not aware of any
        - no
        - Drive around and find interesting things of the beaten path

- On the railroads' websites.
- Catskill Mountain Railroad's Facebook Media page
- Word of mouth
- Watershed Post, Catskill Mountain News
- Mountain Top Historical Society, Greene Land Trust
- meetup.com, yahoo & google groups
- I use guidebooks
- no
- Friends who live there full-time.
- Peakbagger.com
- NYCDEP newsletter
- not sure what you mean by “follow the Catskills”
- Facebook to communicate with other hunters
- I use social media but I don't follow the Catskills. Is there a specific page to follow?
- none
- hiking club websites and newsletters, NYNJTC
- Word of mouth too- like for new restaurants or new breweries
- NYS DEP newsletter is good
- Catskills fly fishing report
- follow what specific Catskills accounts? I follow some, but not many.

16. What would be the most effective way to communicate with you, your family, and friends about new recreational opportunities or events in the Catskills? Select all that apply. (773 responses, 20 skipped)
    a. Instagram (57 selected)
    b. Facebook (424 selected)
    c. YouTube (46 selected)
    d. Google+ (44 selected)
    e. Twitter (24 selected)
    f. E-Newsletter (525 selected)
    g. Print or online newspaper (260 selected)
    h. None (52 selected)
    i. Other. Please specify (95 responses
        - U
        - google news
        - Telephone
        - e-Mail
        - mail brochures via USPS
        - website
        - Email
        - meetup
        - email
        - Booklets and Maps; E-newsletters; dedicated websites
        - [private email]
        - Websites
        - email from known sources
        - [private email]
        - email

- Face to face contact is best way to communicate. How? Put a food truck at Catskill Interpretive Center. Different nationality foods on different days.
- Email
- brochures in the Foyer of Frost Valley YMCA Welcome Center, a total of 42,500 people come thru there every year (14,000 students coming with schools from NYC and northern NJ
- print info at local stores and gathering places
- Catskill Interpretive Center
- telephone, email
- centralized web site I can visit when I want to
- email, texts
- Signs/posters
- Those Catskill magazine/brochures at the thruway rest stops
- Radio --communities need a one stop shop for all events...often there are multiple events going on the complement each other...however no singular place for visitors or residents to see what is happening.
- radio
- word of mouth
- Trail Walker, E-Walker newsletters
- Direct Mail
- Roadside ads
- phone and by person on site
- email
- email
- radio RIP97.9
- Windham Weekly
- word of mouth and email
- Email
- email - if not in e-newsletter
- Email
- email
- none
- Unnecessary, I don't need to a vehicle to learn about things.
- E mail
- DEC newsletters.
- Dec news letters or local publications
- email
- The railroaders tell me what I need to know
- Radio spots
- [private email]
- Email
- Work with existing local non-profits
- email
- The way you contacted me for this questionnaire
- email

- email
- cmc or 3500 club
- WIOX, Chronogram, Vortex and free papers/guides
- email
- post on your website
- The old-fashioned way. We Talk.
- Email
- Snap chat
- Email
- email
- direct email
- Email
- better online calendar of events throughout the Catskills, not just along the Hudson Valley corridor. Not everybody is from Brooklyn.
- raido/and local t.v.
- Website(s) and email
- Yahoo on line
- local radio stations
- e-mail
- dep website, dec website
- The DEC e-newsletter and Fall Hudson Valley outings guides are much appreciated.
- Radio
- none
- Email
- email
- We talk
- NYTimes, DEC newsletters
- email
- e-mail
- e mail
- NPR
- Nice weather
- Local Business that we use - fly fishing shops in Roscoe
- Email!
- email from NYCDEP concerning my area
- DEC News Letter - Thanks
- Single simple comprehensive website of sites and events—so far the dec has the best list of sites, mane just add events to their page? And have a professional firm re-do the clunky dec site
- Radio
- e-mail

17. What is your home zip code or Country of residence? (773 responses, 20 skipped)
    - 12603
    - 10950
    - 12412
    - 13775
    - 12401
    - 11933
    - 18641-2129
    - 18508 Lackawanna. Pa
    - 13783
    - 12401
    - 13856
    - Delaware
    - 12454
    - 13865
    - 12424
    - 10023
    - 12590
    - 10306
    - 12477
    - 12494
    - 10950
    - 13755
    - 12464
    - 12477
    - 12570
    - 10305
    - suffolk
    - 12465
    - 07666
    - 11215
    - 12461
    - 12477
    - 12472
    - 12498
    - 10541
    - 12603
    - 10520
    - 12494
    - 10573
    - Westchester
    - 12167
    - 11379
    - 12561
    - 13856
    - 12491

- 11218
- 07866
- 12481
- 12401
- 12788
- Delaware
- 11379
- 12491
- 10567
- 11001
- 12590
- 99103
- 12550
- 12477
- 12524
- 13753
- 12309
- 12740
- 17325
- 11510
- 12412
- Ulster
- 07860
- 10520
- 11735
- 11741
- 12433
- 10708
- ulster
- 10974
- 12542
- 11238
- 07068
- 12461
- 12409
- 10009
- 12477
- 11105
- 10512
- 12701
- 10001
- 10007
- 12498
- 07042
- 11103
- 07065
- 11755

- 11735
- 12498
- 11228
- 12406
- 12783
- 12498
- 12494
- 12167
- 12443
- Ulster
- Ulster 12498
- 08826
- 13755
- ulster co
- westchester
- 10013
- 12416
- 12457
- 12494
- 12412
- 12758
- 12480
- 12464
- 12725
- Tioga
- 12455
- 10023
- 12481
- 12740 (Ulster County)
- 12461
- 12740 (Ulster Co)
- US
- Ulster
- 12416
- 12481
- 12725
- 12498 Ulster
- 12492
- 12410
- 33040
- 12498
- 12461
- 11231
- 12457
- Ulster
- 12457
- 12464

- 12461
- 13856
- 12464
- 12430
- 12461
- 12464
- 12411
- 12457
- Ulster County, Shandaken, NY
- ulster
- 12464
- 11201
- 13856
- 12496
- 12441
- 12455
- 10010
- 11790
- 13731
- 12455
- 10708
- 10950
- 07059
- 11756
- 10014 and 12521
- 11235
- 11510
- 10707
- 07657
- 13775
- nassau
- 10595
- 12442
- Greene
- 11725
- 12584
- 14216
- 10510
- 12561
- 18702
- 12491
- 13326
- 11967
- 13752
- 12430
- 12452
- 12740

- 12015
- 12414
- 10509
- 12477
- Ulster
- Orange
- 12436
- 13905
- 12455
- 12444
- 12461
- 14886
- 12790
- 12550
- 12436
- 12051
- 18433
- 10509
- 13739
- 10925
- 12533
- 12540
- 13753
- 12455
- Usa
- 10598
- 069065 in ct . 13755 in delaware county
- 12487
- 06751
- 07480
- 12427
- 12427
- 12430
- 12455
- 07430
- 12427
- 12486
- 12442
- 10031
- 12444
- 12468
- 13753
- orange
- 12472
- 12485
- 07420
- 12528

- 12496
- 08550
- 12436
- 12414
- 12603
- 12441
- 12490
- 12496
- 12477
- 12439
- 12538
- Ulster
- 12436
- Ulster County
- 07508
- 12439
- 14437
- 12845
- 10304
- 12496
- 10001
- 07452
- 12473
- 12477
- 12496
- 12430
- 12485
- 11231
- 12427
- 10026
- 11224
- 12538
- 12444
- 12496
- 12477
- 12496
- 12569
- 12538
- 10987 and 2nd home in 12407
- Nassau, 11040
- 12496
- 12496
- 07836
- 07079
- 12439
- 12477
- 67149

- 12436
- 12454
- 12468
- 12496
- 11779
- 12406, Ulster
- 11365
- 10924
- 12443
- 13731
- 10583
- 12424
- 07642
- 12455
- 12570
- 07603
- 12442
- 12409
- 12401
- 12740
- 12461
- 12477
- 12401
- 12561
- 12430
- 12404
- 10994
- 13776
- 12457
- 13839
- 10918
- 13731
- 12186
- 12572
- 13755
- 13739
- 12401
- 12427
- 10011
- 11230
- 12740
- 13856
- 12167
- delaware
- 12498
- 12401
- 13753

- 12059
- 12477
- 12134
- Ulster
- 11758
- 11111
- 11238
- 12159
- 12430
- 17402
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18. What is your employment status? Please select one. (773 responses, 20 skipped)
    a. Full-time (394 selected)
    b. Part-time (57 selected)
    c. Retired (302 selected)
    d. Student (5 selected)
    e. Under 18 (0 selected)
    f. Unemployed (15 selected)
19. Enter the number of people in your household in the following age categories. (755 responses, 38 skipped)
    a. Under 5 (75 selected, 187 responses)
    b. 6-17 (210 selected, 241 responses)
    c. 18-24 (139 selected, 217 responses)
    d. 25-44 (382 selected, 289 responses)
    e. 45-64 (799 selected, 476 responses)
    f. 65 and over (449 selected, 351 responses)
20. What is your household income? Please select one. (682 responses, 111 skipped)
    a. Less than $25,000 (31 selected)
    b. $25,000 - $34,999 (31 selected)
    c. $35,000 - $49,999 (57 selected)
    d. $50,000 - $74,999 (100 selected)
    e. $75,000 - $99,999 (122 selected)
    f. $100,000 - $149,999 (171 selected)
    g. $150,000 - $199,999 (81 selected)

h. $200,000 or more (89 selected)

. If there was one thing you could suggest that would improve your experience in the Catskills, would that be? (578 responses, 215 skipped).

- more fishing access from the shore
- More hunting locations
- Make sure the residents are not negatively affected by all the new tourism in our area.
- cell service, good internet service, more restaurants, better films
- more support for the community, need help with the poverty situation
- Allow the use of electric motors again on the Cannonsville Reservoir. Please reconsider.
- Better dining choices
- this is paradise i love it the way it is
- More sunny weather! ;-)
- more campground and swimming opportunities, back -country skiing resources
- Less city people leaving their garbage around
- More Main Street fairs/festivals or things to do (i.e. shopping, eateries, museums, etc.)
- Indoor sports facilities-swimming, squash, etc.
- A resource website that would provide links on hiking, skiing, kayaking, and other outdoor activities in one location
- Defined trails to all the High Peaks.
- Better Cell Phone/GPS service
- Better trail maintenance, stewardship
- DEC & PRHP should build more electrified cabins, and reduce minimum rental time periods to 2 nights during peak times.
- ATV trails
- More information about our resources.
- No kill year-round fly-fishing section on the Esopus
- Fly fishing regulations and lower fish limits
- open up more spots for swimming
- better parking at trail heads
- Increase cellular coverage and communication networks
- Trim back the trees and shrubs from the signage.
- Better markings on trails and roads
- More regulation of commercial boat traffic on the Hudson, and making sure no DOCKING of large barges is allowed on the Hudson above Kingston
- Open more swimming areas, wider margins on roads or designated paved road bike/walking/jogging paths. Permission for athlete swimmers to swim without lifeguard oversite. Longer hours at parks to allow locals to enjoy park, off peak, and take pressure off the parks during peak time. Publicly offer options to visitors to take pressure off most popular sites.
- n/a
- United “fight” against invasive species
- To Allow residents to swim in the Ashokan
- Day passes for Peekamoose Blue hole, people are ruining it, leaving garbage everywhere.
- Stop DEP STRANGLING THE CATSKILLS
- Maintain the hiking trail to rid them of overgrown grass
- I live very close to the Ashokan Reservoir and love to canoe, would love to be able to do it there.
- Nothing really

- Some less-used hiking trails are poorly marked and maintained (especially in the Western Catskills). I understand why this is - resources should go to the most highly-trafficked trails - but it would be helpful to have some sort of notice at the trailhead that the trail is rarely maintained so that hikers could be prepared to use a map and compass or GPS. The southern half of the Huckleberry Loop is an example of what I mean. Mongaup-Hardenburgh trail is another. People could get lost. It's not necessary to divert extra resources to the areas - just alert people at the trailhead that markers may be scarce.
- Not sure
- Better bike roadway shoulders
- Connect rail trails. Bike friendly routes.
- Can't think of anything.
- better access to state lands, parking, trails
- More access to beaver kill, Willememoc and both branches of Delaware
- More places to rent bikes and learn about biking routes
- Nothing other than allowing atv / dirt bikes. I do understand they cause damages
- Better opportunities for being near water and trails intersections.
- better communication - one place to find everything; cheaper accommodations when you have activities - like your bird weekend - places recommended were all top dollar plus weekend was on Memorial Day - adding to costs
- more access to fishing, boating, and camping
- none
- That businesses and all stakeholders commit to a no plastic policy as part of an overall mission to lead, educate and maintain Catskill's beauty.
- More swimming areas
- Getting there more often
- none
- make it less crowded
- Easier access areas to the Pepacton res.
- better historic and natural resources interpretation; more races w strong publicity; publicity on opportunities on watershed lands; better camaraderie
- Regional activities all listed on one calendar. I always feel like I find out about interesting cultural events after it is too late to plan to participate.
- More free fishing weekends
- There are many homes that are falling down and land that is littered with broken down old cars and other refuse.
- When planning and instituting new recreational facilities do not disrupt private property and neighborhoods, please.
- More access to public lands, more public access to rivers and streams. In particular the mountain tributaries.
- comprehensive trail map with parking areas indicated.
- Public ATV trails
- More recreational family activities
- Working to eliminate night-time light pollution
- The Catskills is low on two types of recreational opportunities: those for folks with small children, such as a farm/petting zoo, horse rides, etc., and those for disabled folks. The scenic train in Phoenicia is a great loss; it was a nice way to take the physically challenged for a trip through the woods. (And it was also good for little kids!)

- sail the Ashokan reservoir
- more mountain biking trails and road riding on standalone bike lanes
- better hotels
- cleaner camp sites; better trails; trails restoration; open more places for public and public awareness about keep them clean.
- More effective forest management. The wild animals have migrated to the towns and subdivisions. I believe a major contributor to this migration I lack of forage in the Catskill forests. Some thinning of the woods would go a long way to restoring the abundant wildlife. This is especially true of DEP property.
- "More signage"
- Comprehensive itineraries for tourists/visitors.
- Better cell reception, better roads and not allowing groups to overtake a location and litter it.
- More off-road bicycle trails (not mountain bike)
- Less people.
- Litter control
- Accommodations and accessibility for seniors
- I would like to see easy access to pull of the road to explore something I see, better parking at waterfalls and other places people might want to stop and a few bathrooms at tourist stop points.
- Municipal Comprehensive Plan updates that require Recreation planning.
- we love the smaller family owned businesses, especially the small inns and restaurants. It is nice that large chains and corporate owned businesses have not taken over
- a commitment to tourism and natural recreational choices
- "1) Cell service (most important)
- 2) More biking trails"
- Cell service
- silence
- Electing people who would be good environmental stewards. People who live in and visit the Catskills should take personal responsibility for caring for the environment. Promoting sustainable job growth outside the tourism industry.
- Opening up of more dep land to hiking/recreation and less of a police presence. Also, in the last year and a half I have noticed a humongous increase in logging especially on dep land. The roads are also in bad shape.
- Shorter distances between locations.
- Slower speed limits. More rail trails for non-motorized recreation.
- The weather. Ethnic/ diversity in people and restaurants. Safe driving encouragement on Route# 28. Waste treatment system in Phoenicia. NYCDEP driving map of the wonder of the reservoir and watershed.
- More events during the week
- Better staffing at DEC
- The Catskills need a lot more public trains.
- Better opportunities for those self-employed
- Nothing - the Catskills are perfect!
- DEP allowing bear hunting with dogs on DEP land
- More swimming areas
- More bicycle trails
- more

- Sailing on the reservoirs. More focus on creating walkable villages (like Andes, say). Sorry that's two!
- More places for swimming like Blue Hole to reduce the overcrowding there and allow more people to visit the Catskills at free or reduced rates. More parking for people visiting swimming holes like Blue Hole. More places in the Catskill Park for people from the City to come up and enjoy the land that their taxes go for. Please open up some more swimming holes and parks for people. At Blue Hole, please put a kiosk with info about where to stay so they can make a weekend of it, Frost Valley YMCA has reasonable rates! There is currently no parking at Blue Hole and many people are getting tickets and fines ($30,000-$40,000 per summer) just to take advantage of the Park that exists their tax money.
- Bike paths on regular roads.
- centralized referral organization with full lists of contact info for all activities, 311 type service
- The absence of ticks...but would NOT be happy with solutions to the tick problem that would affect the environment negatively.
- Improve Catskill Interpretive Center
- Don't allow hiking/biking trail between 375 and Boiceville. The water in the reservoir will never be the same. Never. The traffic on 28 will become worse and there will be more accidents. Why "pave paradise and put up a parking lot"? Some of us live here because we like it here.
- Bike path from Kingston to Arkville
- i can't think of a thing
- Less development
- We should host more movies in the Catskills. Brings money, food, and people with little environmental damage.
- Looking forward to the Rail Trail along Route 28! Protect areas like the Blue Hole and other formerly pristine spots with Ranger patrols and parking regulations.
- Groom the trails in the Bear Spring Mountain park in Walton, NY
- less people
- coordinated events calendar
- Trains!!!
- Improved road cycling and mountain biking infrastructure.
- Dining out could be more affordable.
- I wish there were a way for those "native" to the Catskills to become more welcoming to "transplants" and "visitors."
- "More vistas at mountaintops -- either through fire towers, cleared trees, or trails to cliffs. Often there is no payoff when getting to the top of a forested Catskill peak.

- Also, the natives need to be friendlier. Often it is only the transplants who are welcoming."
- more/better trail access- improve signage, parking, offer public bathrooms, trash cans, trail maps, town info. Love to see more multi use trails built in the great northern Catskills near Hunter and Windham areas. Trail economy is real and should be enhanced for all levels of ability. DEP land use regs need to be loosened up to allow more recreational use
- Can't think of anything.
- More for kids to do in our town and clean up the drug problem
- cell phone coverage for emergencies and information gathering.
- not in your purview -- get rid of junk cars, unsightly signs, abandoned buildings, better policing of litter

- In depth resource guide
- You are good
- lower property taxes
- More variety/quality in the food choices both shopping and eating out.
- open
- Better signage, sometimes tough to find the trailheads
- more signed bike routes
- More and better parking options
- More adequate parking to handle weekend crowds!
- open up more fishing areas
- Better cellphone service
- Keeping the natural environment natural. Don't try to turn it into a city or a suburb. Being a vacation spot is ok, as long as you don't lose forests. Keep the focus on the natural environment.
- mountain biking trails
- trash disposal, education. too many down-staters being in booze and leave the empties.
- Add highmount ski hill to Belleayre Ski center.
- Allow kayak fishing on the Ashokan and Roundout reservoirs
- larger trail head parking areas
- I like to hike, would like trail markings improved. Would also like to see markings for the summits of mountains.
- Close the Kaaterskill Falls near horseshoe bend on Route 23A can't stand all the summer traffic. I moved up here to get away from it and now it has gotten worse each and every year.
- I have lived in many different parts of the country...the natural beauty of our area cannot be surpassed, however I have never lived with more government agency representation whether it's Town police, Sheriffs, State Police, DEP, DEC officers, Forest Rangers...and yet there are major safety issues (rt 23A) and unbelievable amounts of trash that are left behind--you cannot speed through town --but you can trash the mountain road or if you are a seasonal resident...leave your trash out to be scattered around town with no repercussions. Our community needs municipal transportation to grow and support visitors who might not have the skills to drive in our area. Business owners that let their building crumble on main street should be fined. NYC should be supplementing our area initiatives with $$ for the use of our water.
- kayaking in Ashokan reservoir
- Long-distance bike/multi-use (rail-trail type) trails.
- More Access To Ruffed Grouse Hunting
- more access area
- ability to use ATVs. Better Parking Areas to access hiking of Kaaterskill Falls. Control of Trash on Trails
- Leave it natural
- recreational marijuana
- I wish it was closer...
- Today, a little less snow... the sap lines are buried.
- Fewer motorized vehicles (quads, snowmobiles)
- Continue sharing more trails with FLT
- Better signage inside the park. Roads around Mongaup Pond are an example. Got lost up there ounce!!
- stop people from post-holing snow shoe trails... use snowshoes!!!

- Allowing the boat fisherman closer access to the dams where all the big lake trout and brown trout are, especially at the Rondout 50ft off the rip rap of the dam would be perfect!
- More funding to support trail building, maintenance and summit stewards.
- good signage
- More restaurants
- Have more after hour activities in my town to draw more people here
- Better parking at trails.
- Trader Joe's
- have trash receptacles avail and emptied daily
- Crowded areas regulated
- More bike paths and swimming areas that can be used. Our family used to go to CDLane Park often. Better internet and cell phone access so people can find their way around and know what is available. Also better radio reception.
- "Internet, WiFi, cell phone improved services
- 24 hr. Emergency health service"
- "Biking trails - development of Rail to Trails routes
- improved access - parking/boat launches
- "Expand and improve the rail trails systems for bikes and hikers; connect the Poughkeepsie walking trail with Rte 28 rail trail in progress, out to Belleayre, with user safe and friendly transitions over busy roads. Revitalize swimming areas at the smaller parks to take some of the burden off the larger parks. Add safe shoulders to all back roads for safer cycling.
- Thanks for asking. I love and support the Catskills!!!"
- Useful directions for parking and walking on the major roads. Communications about traveling through the cloves and better rules for the masses of visitors to our landmark sites before they arrive and are stumped about the safety and proper involvement with the environment.
- keep bellearye as it is don't develop it into a condo ski area.
- Better signage, or perhaps a list of mountains with GPS addresses for the trailheads. It's tough to find them sometimes.
- More opportunities for biking and mountain biking.
- I like it the way it is! Really - less development is better, of course, some of the towns are run-down and need an economic boost.
- I think if you got rid of the rundown buildings the area would be more attractive
- I know it's a lot to ask but access to more lakes for recreation. The private one in east Windham is up for sale. It's the big draw of the adk. I know are waters are very limited.
- I can't think of anything that would improve my experience. It's pretty good the way it is. On second thought - maybe eliminating mud season, black flies, and ticks ;)
- "more snow shoe/ biking trials.
- expand the windham path
- add road bike lanes "
- To me the attraction is the quiet mountains and trails. Let's keep it that way.
- Better cell service
- Spread out public use. Reduce mobs and trash at popular swimming holes.
- Increasing mountain biking and other cycling opportunities on DEP land.
- Stop advertising it's ruining it and it's getting overrun
- Less DEP and DEC regulations which make living here miserable and very expensive
- Bring back the trains. Excellent family entertainment for all ages and abilities.
- Codify available websites for Catskill information so there is one source (website) to go to.

- signage/education re: behavior and rules expected in certain areas.
- Better fisheries management
- More mountain bike specific trails
- no suggestions
- More access to public lands
- Better management of visitors along route 23A. Someone is going to get killed by a car driving up the mountain road as the road in narrow and city people to don't respect the area or area. Often they are not prepared for the weather, hiking conditions and leave garbage behind.
- better cell coverage
- MORE HISTORIC SIGNAGE IN GREENE COUNTY
- Improve the natural beauty by cleaning up unsightly eyesores.
- Fewer cars, pedestrian town centers.
- Keeping it clean!
- Less marked trails the wild forest are not wild if shredded by marked trails
- more recreation on the land and less DEC BS!
- Recreational activities are great, but what is needed are jobs you need to promote a industry friendly environment where a company will move into the area creating full time employment and it's employees can enjoy all the benefits of the area....
- better internet connectivity
- Better trail maintenance.
- Keep protecting the towns and building codes and not allowing it to be abused.
- Better mountain biking trails ... cleaner roads for road bikes ... more hiking trails
- More Bike Trails
- Better use of NYC DEP Lands
- More mountain bike trails
- Physically connecting towns to outdoor activities. Making them a hub for activity.
- A body that is able to hike the mountains
- More full-time jobs for small towns
- more expert mountain biking trails with roots and rocks left in trail. please, enough of the scoured clean, sanitized flow trails, they are great for beginners but too many of my favorite trails have been dumbed down and robbed of character ex Schutt Rd trail at North South Lake.
- More family-friendly walking opportunities
- "extend the walking path to maplecrest.
- stop discriminating against bikes..
- allow for bikes, trykes so that my disabled son can go on the path, and hiking trails"
- More Family Multi-use Trails, More Mountain Bike Trails
- trail maintenance
- connected multi-use trails, especially via bicycles
- make rt 28 4 lanes
- ether cell phone service so that information about area resources, weather, food and lodging could be accessed more easily.
- more good restaurants
- Road Maps
- Maybe a few more drinking/dining options, but honestly, I love the Catskills so much the way they are.
- A public shuttle service starting in the northern Catskills (Hunter, Jewett) and branching out to other sections.

- Bike lanes
- More Dog Friendly walkways and more handicap accessible locations! Stinks that a dyke walkway is not allowed for dogs at the Ashokan reservoir
- better communication of fairs/festivals ongoing
- Stop the DEP police from harassing people on the public highway 28. I witnessed a DEP cop lying to the town of Olive Judge about a ticket he wasn't even there to see what happened.
- Less noise pollution and littering on hiking trails.
- Less emphasis on large developments and more emphasis on organic Main Street development
- better trail markings
- More mountain biking single-track.
- Clean roadside trash
- Better awareness of and access to swimming.
- musky fishing
- electric motors
- Easy access to locally grown/produced products
- "Less depression
- "
- Predictable weather! Hah!
- Allowing motor boats on the reservoirs
- not sure
- get a handle on the rock snot
- More bike rental shops
- More environmental protection throughout the region to prevent the miss use of the forest and water sources
- Seeing our local economies grow and be viable.
- keep it just how it is, natural. I love it here.
- improved signage/parking at trailheads
- More "how to" seminars. i.e. how to bushwhack
- Improved rail access between towns. Highways are too congested on weekends. A ski train between Kingston and Belleayre. Longer scenic train trips and Dinner Train rides would be wonderful. Then we wouldn't have to drive out of the area for this.
- Keep it clean, and remove construction debris.
- for me and my family, areas dedicated and known for recreational target shooting
- better food, less Yuppies, bus service and a decent railway to the Hudson river, better cell service, better internet service, and more swimming holes.
- Cheaper skiing season passes.
- Hire more rangers and spend a fraction of what Cuomo spends on tourism to protect the resource that's being ruined.
- Sooner opening of recreational boating programs.
- Stop stocking the East Branch of the Delaware from Downsville to East Branch with trout. There are plenty of wild trout. Create a few fly fishing only sections on the East & West branch Delaware.
- broadband
- Have visitors control their litter and pick up after themselves
- More fishing access sites
- Better cell phone service
- Send the New York city people to the Poconos for the weekends and holidays. :)
- return rails

- More trophy fishing opportunities
- Reverse climate change!
- ?
- Expand the train in Kingston and Phoenicia
- Better access to recreation areas.
- A dinner train , r theme train and a longer ride to ski mountains
- More public bathrooms for the wife.
- Open more areas to fly fishing. Some streams and rivers in areas are privately owned and are posted.
- An increase in the minimum flow throughout the Delaware Water System
- Cell phone service
- Somehow educating non-local residents the uniqueness of the area and that it must be preserved and not abused.
- Longer summers. Better grocery stores.
- Selective logging for a better and more productive forest.
- Keep it clean garbage cans in public places and fishing areas violators should be fined
- Allow the railroads to continue to grow and become a vital source of tourist revenue for the Catskill region.
- Don't let it get too crowded. We like it to be as peaceful as possible.
- DEC needs to hire more Rangers to patrol the trails, educate the masses; tell dog owners NOT to leave baggies of poop on the trails
- Bring back the tourist trains in Phoenicia
- More RR trails.
- "Stop ripping out the railroads for bike trails, because I don't take a 3-hour ride to look at where railroads used to be. I do take a ride to active tourist railroads. If you keep the railroads, I will continue to patronize the Catskills as I get employed full time.
- If you don't want my business, continue to destroy railroads for the trails; I'll find some other state to hang out in."
- Rebuild the Catskill Mountain Railroad.
- More long term thinking about infrastructure, resources
- Tourist trains, there aren't too many of those.
- reasonable lodging
- Bring back the trains. ASAP
- Have more signage to warn people not to litter, to stay on the trail, to keep pets under control or on a leash. It is the "bad" hiker that ruins the wilderness experience.
- electric trolling motors on the Pepacton reservoir
- "Stronger zoning laws that would prohibit
- man-made eyesores along Route 28. "
- Toilets at all trailheads
- "Trail conditions easier to get
- OR
- Restaurant reviews"
- Maintain hiking trails
- More wildlife/ forestry educational programs
- To move here for good.
- Information on events that happening in the Catskills
- None at this time

- ?
- Enforce the ATV restrictions more actively.
- More access points to the Catskill forest.
- Trash Cans, so People will have no excuse to leave the Trash in the Wilderness
- A day time senior tour program
- newsletter/email
- more bookstores
- Further "development" of trail, rail and destination points. Bathrooms. I might be enticed to eat lunch out if it was right at the trailhead. Single site planning and information location or app
- Better cell coverage
- Conservation of the historical Catskill Mountain Railway from Catskill through Austin Glen to Cairo Junction and Palenville and North-South lake reconnecting Catskill to the site of the Catskill Mountain House.
- I wish it was easier to get information on hiking trails and water holes. I use http://www.catskillhiker.net/Trails/trails.shtml the most, but the website feels dated.
- The DEC needs to update maps for the trail system on public land.
- Allow a designated trail for an atv or utv or dirt bike to get deep in the back woods were only 10 people a year get now. Park the equipment and then hike and camp
- improved cell phone service
- Faster internet and cell service
- consolidation of information resources
- A cure for lymes disease.
- Lodging for guests, more restaurants, more cultural activities
- More public land with better access
- Make Loop 7 in north lake a radio and RV free loop
- "Make folks stop thrashing the popular areas with their garbage
- Have a lifeguard at North Lake until Labor Day. "
- Better trail maintenance and construction of new trails in some areas.
- better calendar collaboration among all the entities offering Catskill events, experiences
- Stronger centralized resource/website listing everything going on in the region - it feels like we currently do a lot of piecemeal searching for hikes, trails, breweries, restaurants, farmers markets, etc. Would be great to have a one-stop location to let you know "Here's all the cool stuff in and around various towns/villages."
- More trails
- more launch areas for kayaking
- "More commerce in towns - more stores restaurants theatre
- Everything happens at same time - all events Saturday of Memorial Day weekend for example. "
- I suggest more state funded cabin construction, as there is virtually no public cabin availability in the region. I would like to see these cabins available with a 2-night minim stay, in line with DEC tent sites.
- Better signage to indicate official pull-offs for access to public lands.
- Educate the idiots that go and leave garbage behind
- Open more property's in the NYC watershed for hunting fishing
- Have a train line running from Kingston to Phoenicia.
- Provide cell phone towers so the whole area is covered. Remove state and local regulatory strangleholds on small businesses who offer hospitality services, and reduce land use restrictions. Let NYC pay for its own water.

- economic revitalization of small towns like Margaretville.
- More activities to bring people to the area
- Customer service. Often rude or indifferent, not enthusiastic or knowledgeable.
- Preserve wilderness, restrict overuse
- Control the weather. HA HA!!!
- Sorry. This survey is just too long.
- More hunting and fishing opportunities
- Restaurants that stay open past 10:00 on Friday night!
- More dining, brew pubs, and concerts.
- More DEC enforcement of regulations in all the Catskill facilities...including regular ranger and officer patrols
- swimming in the Ashokan
- Sailing
- dep dec police have harassed me
- Improve all the lean-tos
- no comment
- ATV recreation trails
- expand state land protection, create and APA like Agency for the Catskills
- You shouldn't ask for my income in this survey
- We need more DEC Rangers. Part time would be good, but at least three more full time rangers are needed.
- Cell service
- More sunny weekends only have it rain mid-week lol
- more trailheads
- Promote the interpretive center more.
- It would be nice to see more emphasis on history... quarries, old settlements, tan bark industry, etc... tie in the city of Kingston to the history of the Catskills...continue efforts to encourage people to hike the less traveled trails to disperse the crowds....
- I would recommend making it easier to take school/youth groups hiking without group size restrictions.
- Do not allow the Crossroads Bellayre project it's disgusting and will pollute the area and water supply.
- Biking paths
- fewer people
- More conveniences
- Continue to provide outdoor experiences.
- Less City contact
- less regulations regarding land use, easier access to more areas,
- better GPS connections
- More hunting opportunities
- Remove the antler restrictions on deer hunting.
- All inclusive resort
- More boat rentals on lakes.
- Charge hikers/bikers a minimum fee for day parking along roads in Parks."
- Lower property/home prices
- Warm, out of the weather rest stops!
- Allow electric motors on Pepacton res. for seniors.

- habitat improvement for species of wildlife beside wt deer and turkeys on state and city properties
- I don't know
- Improved forest stand age class diversity to increase wildlife diversity and abundance.
- We need young forests
- "Rowing/paddling on reservoirs; kayaks, canoes, guide boats
- (on all NYC waters, not just Catskills. The steam washed rowboat thing is getting old....)"
- Young forests to improve habitat for grouse
- No ticks!
- Allow recreational activity (sailing, kayaking, canoeing) other than fishing on the Ashokan Reservoir and allow dogs to walk on the Lemon Squeeze
- Better cellphone and WiFi coverage
- Do not ask question 19 and 20 because we will not be honest and why do you want to know and why does it matter? Not cool.
- More and longer Mtb trails like they have in Centre county, PA and Shenandoah mtns near Harrisonburg , VA .
- areas that are more accommodating for seniors who need easier fishing access/parking - less "vertical" climbs to reach water edge and more parking space designated for seniors and handicapped placard holders.
- Use if trolling motors on the Pepacton reservoir!!!!
- we greatly enjoy our visits. cannot suggest any thing to improve
- Open up more hunting areas small game and ATV riding
- Bathroom
- Better upland hunting
- Manage our WMU's better. There is too much old growth. Need to harvest mature forest to have more new growth come in so wildlife has a place to live.
- a forest management plan that develops more young forests
- Picnic type recreational areas
- More handicap access. There does not seem to be portable toilets located at a lot of parking areas and trail heads. I have only seen them at some launch and picnic areas. Seasonally, of course.
- More opportunities to hunt upland game birds, waterfowl, and rabbits
- Unlimited access to Pepacton Reservoir and other reservoirs.
- Less litter
- better cell phone coverage
- less posted land
- More easier fishing access to the streams
- Logging for better deer and grouse habitat
- Open more state land
- nothing
- More hunting and fishing access
- Less traffic
- Improve the viewsheds from vantage points on hiking trails...the "forever wild" initiative is good for preventing poorly situated development, but is counter-productive when pursuing tourism dollars. Why bother to spend the day out in the "forever wild" when all you can see is the scraggly red maples that are choking out the views and a more diverse and healthy ecosystem? Mountains imply views from the top; if the views disappear or are not worth the effort, people will not come.
- See a lot less litter
- ATV trail network

- trails for motorized off road vehicles such as 4x4 vehicles / A.T.V.S / U.T.V.S. / Dirt Bikes/Snowmobiles
- Bring them closer to my house
- "Open crossbow season the same as bow season for hunters 65 and older "
- E news
- "easier access to the waters of the reservoirs it is a difficult task especially older anglers to lug equipment to the boat or shore I would like to see a few drive in locations just to drop your gear then park at the designated areas
- Need more of the closed up shops to re-open.
- The implementation of a consistent thermal water release program for the Delaware river.
- More detailed maps of trout streams.
- open up more of the dep land for hunting and rec.
- Nice weather opening day of deer season .
- Don't over develop the recreational activities.
- Build the Ashokan Rail Trail!!
- cell phone service
- Better timber management for benefit of all animals
- "More opportunity to target and trap shoot. Additional Archery courses as well.
- More sportsman's shoes."
- none
- More access for hunting and fishing
- I think the Catskills would benefit from more forestry and habitat management. The Catskills are lacking in early successional forest. This limits available habitat for many avian species
- None
- Keep all the tourist out while I'm visiting
- Not really sure. Probably leave as is.
- Complete the rail trail and offer more biking, hiking and fishing areas.
- improve roads
- More river access
- More areas to hunt
- more economic development so that the communities would thrive more.
- great knowledge of the area
- less people
- Nothing at this time
- Some kind of bathroom and update the ones you have.
- DEP land boundary app on the iPhone
- Back Road Map
- I love it just the way it is.....
- Improve hunting habitat; small game habitat fits in with healthy and stable groundwater conditions; win-win for both.
- motor boating at Cannonsville res.
- take kayak in and out with out having to leave it there
- Open reservoirs for hiking/bird watching/photography, instead of having to carry a fishing pole.
- cell towers mostly for navigating and safety
- Flat-water canoe routes with specific access location information

- More even-age timber harvest, e.g. clear cut, seed-tree cut, shelterwood cut, to regenerate young dense hardwood forest to improve habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock, deer, wild turkey
- Building the Ashokan Rail Trail. I'd buy a bike and use it all the time.
- Engender respect for the environment, it's silence, peace and solitude, clear water and good air. These are qualities that make the region so attractive and unique. Focus on education at all levels to improve appreciation of the environment and outdoor experience, and model good outdoor behavior/ethics. Consider what measures need to be taken short and long term---along with your outreach to new users---to protect iconic areas, e.g., the Peekamoose Blue Hole, from desecration and over-use.
- More timely information about trail and ski conditions
- additional snowmobiling opportunities and additional maintained snowmobile trails
- open more DEP land to hunting
- Hard to say, more and more areas and reservoirs are opening up for recreational use. I guess allowing dogs into more areas would make my dog happier.
- Bring back permits to hunting on NYC DEP lands because some areas are too crowded.
- Clean up area around Echo Lake
- Motor vehicle (ATV) access to park trails
- Cell reception
- Keep motorized boats (including electric motors) out of NYC watersheds.
- Proper water flows to protect the trout in the Esopus
- Boat Launch at the Beerston Cannonsville location. This is often the last stop and seldom a put-in location. This would help insure all watercraft traveling the West Branch Delaware above the Cannonsville get out before they could contaminate the water source. ADA compliant full ramp with Drift Boat Trailer access, not just a carry and car top launch. You will see like I do more and more drift boats on the upper stretches of the West Branch Delaware
- Can't think of any enjoyable now
- Better road access and parking at top of Silver Hollow Rd in Greene county and Hutchin Hollow Rd in Ulster/Woodstock. Gravel trails connecting hollows for easy hiking.
- Biking and running paths without cars & trucks...and that are closer to Margaretville. The one in the Roxbury area is nice.
- Can't think of anything
- More pet friendly lodging
- "eliminate eye sores and dilapidated properties.
- Build the Belleayre resort!"
- More fish stocking programs.
- Nothing
- MORE RESTOURANTS
- Better access to hunting areas.
- More activity for children.
- Better handicapped access in remote sections on North side of Pepacton (e.g. Fall Clove, Coles Clove, Huntley Hollow) Emergency cell towers for accidents, fishing emergencies or any crises concerning Pepacton Reservoir
- Expand the Windham Path with an Improved surface to allow for wheelchair, Baby Stroller and bicycle access
- the use of electric motors
- More Ashokan Reservoir access for walking/hiking

- More water activities
- Limit group sizes. We are loving the mountains to death.
- keep trespassers from DEP property onto my private property. Stamford & Hobart new york
- fine the way it is
- don't let the Catskills turn into Williamsburg
- Inexpensive camping
- Tighter DEP outfits ;)
- if the distance to the destinations I go to were shorter!
- Allow electric motors to fish the reservoirs and Kayaks on the Ashokan
- Public rest stop-like facilities with garbage / recycling, restrooms, and private facilities that offer laundry and showers like you'd find out west
- Allow metal detecting!!! We would even pay for a permit!!! It's becoming a very popular spot and a safe one. Not fair we cannot search on your land. Restrictions can still be put in place to protect sensitive areas. Otherwise, what is the problem?
- "Preservation of more wild lands along with natural sites for nature appreciation.
- Events that bring together artists and art appreciators within the natural environment."
- Supporting trains on the U&D railroad corridor
- Heavily concentrate on world record fishing. Anglers spend much needed resources in this area. If the lure of a record is in the midst, this would only raise their anti. Catch and release.
- better and more diverse habitat for wildlife on state land
- Better habitat management for upland bird hunting.
- being able to sail, canoe, kayak on the reservoirs
- More trail connections.
- Better access to fishing boats
- Need to provide more trash control
- More land access
- security
- Open kayaking on the Roundout reservoir please
- information on where to go & how to get there
- I'd love more swimming in reservoirs.
- Work toward returning the fisheries to their past glory.
- Hiking on reservoir properties.
- Finish the Ashoka Rail Trail, trail connectivity, additional mountain bike opportunities including purchase of parcels to enhance State Wild Forests, and work with private land owners to access state lands.
- Less people from NYC
- More fishing and hunting areas
- more boating & swimming access in reservoirs
- Kayaking on the reservoirs! (Rondout)
- Better Town Centers and with Side Walks
- More restaurants and bars!
- "Less bullying by Ulster County officials in regard to the Ulster & Delaware Rail Corridor. I would like to see the 38 miles of corridor revitalized for rail and trail use.

- Millennials want viable public transportation."
- more parking areas for hikers to access different parcels

- Allow birding at the Ashokan reservoir beyond the causeway--if fishing is allowed, birding should be allowed!
- Nice trails
- Better cell phone coverage. It's non-existent in the Spruceton Valley, for instance. That's where my vacation home is.
- More swimming, more ATV trails
- More loop hiking and biking trails. More access to water. hiking trails interconnected.
- Have more cell towers
- The ability to use a vehicle for off-road access for disabled.
- improved infrastructure and staffing to support it
- Public transportation
- Keep it BEAUTIFUL AND NATURAL
- managing river fisheries to provide greater angling success--maybe stocking some portions of the main rivers/streams
- Better Cell phone coverage
- Make Rt 28 wider from Kingston to Highmount. The addition of passing lanes!
- TRAILS COULD BE MAINTAINED A LITTLE BETTER. TREES IN TRAILS. IN SOME PLACES BAD.
- To spend more time there!
- less people from NY City
- PLEASE open at least one basin of the Ashokan Reservoir to kayaking.
- Expand the park, protect more acres
- Better lake beaches.
- Don't hire a firm from NYC to do a planning study for the Catskills. There's plenty of local talent.
- Good weather every day I am there
- Reduce development, prevent strip malls
- have all the" pigs" that visit our homeland from NYC and other met areas pick up their "GARBAGE" so us locals don't have to. we don't want to be the Bronx.
- Economic development, especially Belleayre Mountain.
- Lower tolls and gasoline
- Permit Ice fishing on reservoirs
- Better quality access maps for state and DEP owned lands.
- Better cellphone service
- keep it clean
- Improved kayak launching
- better and more restaurants
- "More lodging for guests!
- More good restaurants and breweries! This is the way to get people up there. Look at NY Times article about craft breweries reviving lagging economies in the Catskills! It has to happen not just in Middletown but in Margaretville!"
- Ice fishing access to NYC reservoirs west of Hudson
- Some growth is ok but be careful not to ruin the peace and quiet that people who actually live and own property and pay taxes here with too many tourist trails and parking lots, etc...
- less turbid dirty water coming from Reservoir through the tunnel in Shandaken
- Don't allow much further development, including things such as mountain bike trails, zip lines and other "outdoor recreational development"-- keep it wild! Please!
- more opportunities to interact with permanent residents of the region
- Litter removal

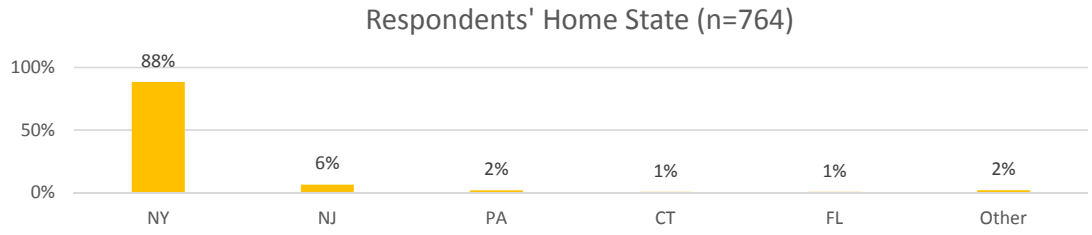
- More moderate looping trails. Something at the base of a mountain instead of going all the way up. Sometimes I just want to take a nice long walk in the woods with my dog and not be hiking straight up all day!
- More access to long distance mountain bike trails
- keep clean
- Better phone coverage, route 28 gets very busy not sure what you could do to ease the congestion
- it is pretty good the way it is.....
- Active forest management for better animal habitat. Improve forest structure for grouse, snowshoes and others whose habitat is decreasing with the maturation of the forest.
    - Complete Rail to Trail from Liberty to Livingston Manner. 2) Condemn and remove buildings that should be condemned and removed. 3) Keep ATVs off State and DEP roads and lands.
- More organized recreation, like visitor centers that provide maps of hiking trails including mileage of those hikes, bathrooms and a place to eat. I find that trailheads were great in my twenties but as a family I need more functionality and would love to start our day trip and end it somewhere with facilities and people to ask questions of rather than just trying to find a trail in the middle of nowhere.
- more rail trails
- Improve cell reception
- More Farms
- Up grading route 17 past Roscoe
- allow more recreation in/on our reservoirs—particularly swimming and sailing (no motors!) They are a beautiful natural resource that are currently being underused, and the restrictions do not really make us any safer as a society
- Our roads need a bit of TLC!
- Easier to learn about events in one place (i.e., comprehensive e-newsletter). I often find myself having to scour many website/sources to learn about events/activities during the times that i travel to the region
- Stop raising the price for hunting and fishing licenses
- More locations for dump in and out for kayaks and canoes
- More organized outdoor athletic events and wider use of the reservoirs.
- "Cost effective non-resident senior / veteran hunting and fishing license fees.
- Thank you"
- More access points to the reservoir for boating, easier ways to wash boat to put on and take off. Kayak launch points, areas to swim.
- Laundry/Clothes Dryer facilities near campsites, hamlets
- Nothing that I can think of. I always enjoy my visits. My favorite activity is fly fishing and the access to streams and rivers keeps improving. Thank you! My one great concern is to keep waterways clean enough for fish to thrive. Please keep doing everything you do for the environment.
- More information about what is going on that can be accessed online and that is sent to my email weekly as one newsletter type item.
- Increase hiking opportunities on DEP reservoir land. Have the state or City pay for boat washing on the reservoirs. The cost is too high to have a family bring their kayaks on the reservoirs.
- High speed internet, greater boating access on reservoirs
- More mountain biking and easier hiking trails
- better signage/parking/rest areas on 28

- Stop promotion of the forest preserve. Promote villages and village-based opportunities. Promote experiences and venues that can support high levels of visitation (such as ski areas). Stop cheerleading about hiking and nature. The resource and the DEC staffing (rangers and foresters) cannot support continued increased use.
- No motorized vehicles on Forest Preserve

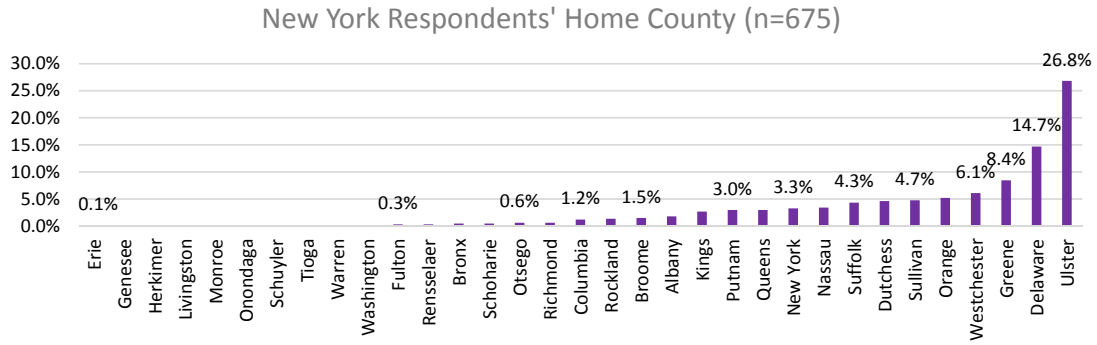
APPENDIX B

Survey Respondent Profiles

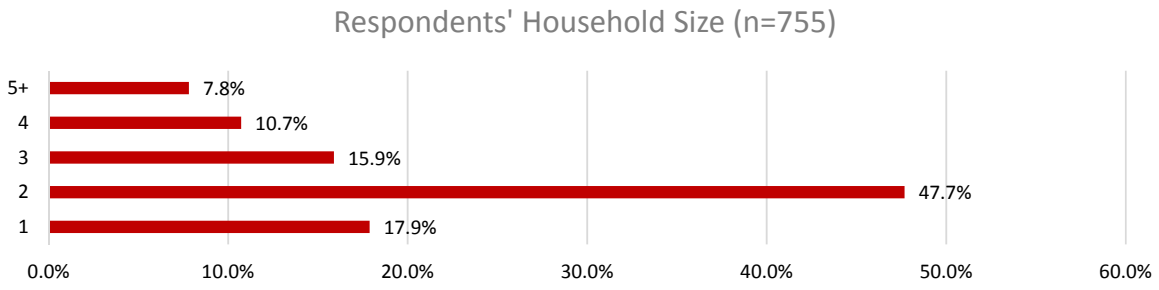
The vast majority of survey respondents indicated that their primary residence is in the state of New York (88%), while the remaining respondents drew from 16 other states and the District of Columbia. Among the out-of-state respondents, residents of New Jersey (6%) and Pennsylvania (2%) responded to the survey at the highest rate.



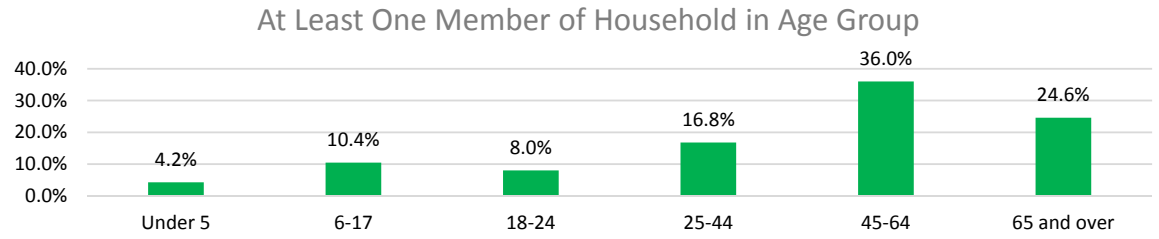
Among the respondents from New York, responses were mostly concentrated in counties within the Plan's four-county plan area (Ulster, Delaware, Greene, and Sullivan counties), to the immediate south the plan area (Westchester, Orange, and Dutchess counties), or on Long Island (Suffolk, Nassau, and Queens counties).



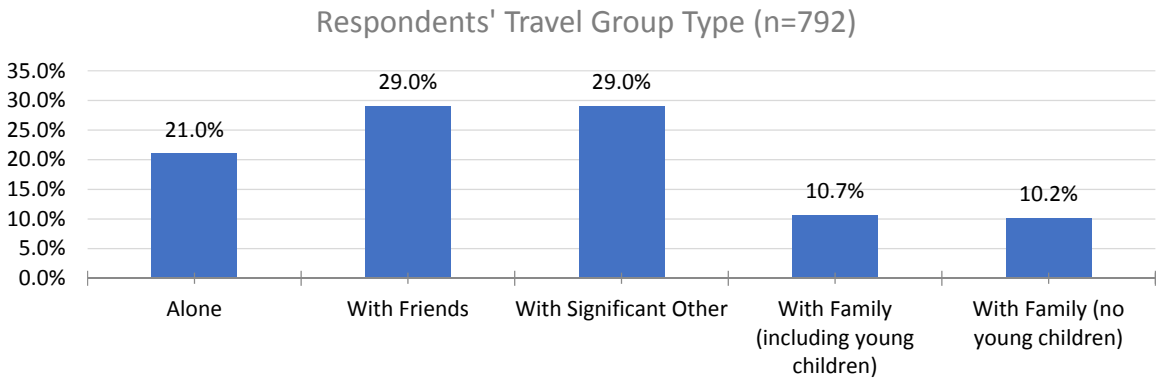
Respondents indicated that they live in a variety of types of households. The majority live in one- to two-person households (66% compared to 61%t of households in New York), while the rest indicated that their household contained three or more members (34% compared to 40% of households in New York).[136]



Respondents' households not only varied by size but also by the age of its members. Only 4% of respondents indicated that their households contained members under 5 years old, and almost one-quarter indicated that their household contained at least one senior citizen.

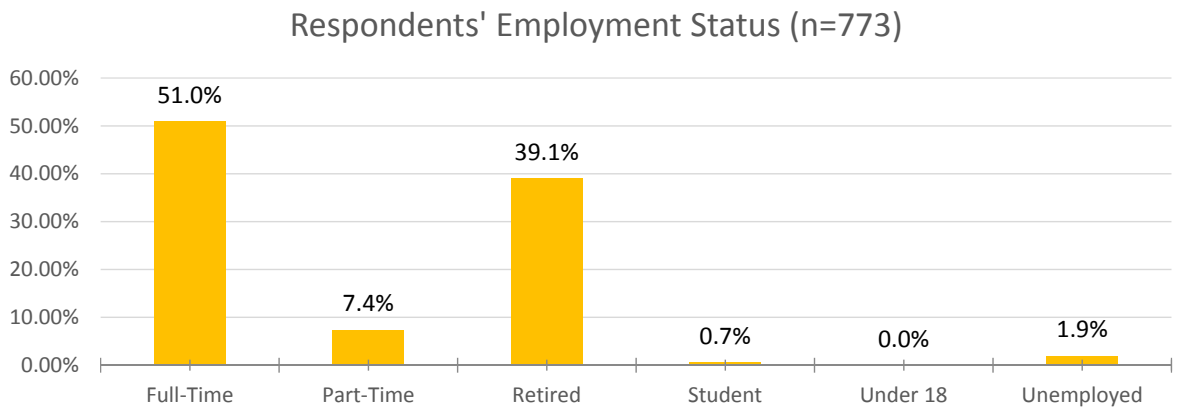


Among the survey respondents, over one-quarter indicated that they travel with friends to the region (29%) or a significant other (29%). The percent of survey respondents that traveled alone to the region was roughly equivalent to the number that traveled with family members (21% and 21%, respectively).

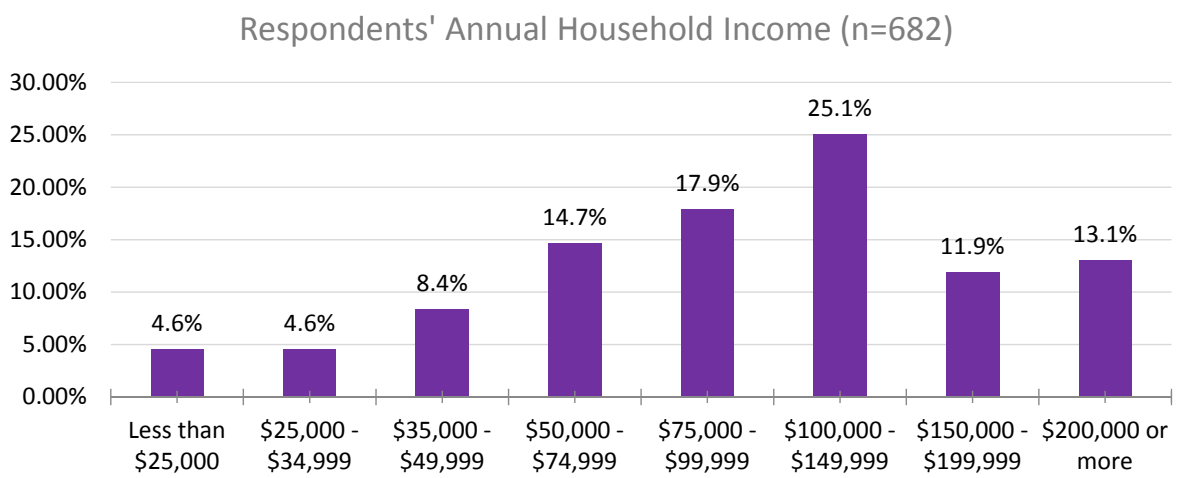


[136] *Table S2501: Occupancy Characteristics. American Community Survey. 2016 one-year estimates.*

Retirees comprised 39% of survey respondents while students represented less than 1.0 percent of responses. The majority of respondents were employed full time (51%).



Survey respondents' annual household incomes skewed higher than average values for the state of New York. Among the 682 respondents who provided their household income, 32% indicated an annual household income of less than $75,000 (compared to 59% of New York households), 18% indicated an annual household income between $75,000 and $99,999 (compared to 12% of New York households), 25% indicated an annual household income between $100,000 and $149,999 (compared to 15% of New York households), and 25% indicated an annual household income of $150,000 or more (compared to 15% of New York households).[137]



[137] *Table S1901: Income in the past 12 months (in 2016 inflation-adjusted dollars). 2012-2016 five-year estimates.*

APPENDIX C

Public Feedback

Arkville (December 12, 2017)

- Purpose
  - Part of a DEC Smart Growth grant with a CWC match
  - Document for getting funding
  - Should seek to improve public access to parks
  - Should look to improve relationships between businesses and park land
- Public Outreach
  - Need to make sure that the survey reaches people outside of the Catskills
  - Stakeholder outreach will be key
  - Consider reaching out to partner organizations with regional draws in each of the counties
  - Consider reaching out to outdoor chains such as EMS to see if they could help with increasing survey participation
  - Needs to ask how and why a person got to the Catskills
  - Describe what the plan is. Define who the audience is.
  - Workbook of identified tasks and associated stakeholders
  - Should speak to all agencies and promote collaboration
- Background Information
  - Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan
  - Need to make sure that the plan ties into municipalities' Comprehensive Plans
  - National Park and Recreation Association (NPRA) Park Metrics
  - Will be able to use to compare and learn from similar projects
  - NPRA has helped to identify a few comparable areas
  - A peer community will be set up to use as an additional resource moving forward
  - Plan should take into account past plans and planning efforts
  - Note what was recommended and what was or was not implemented
  - Team will compile a chart that lists different recommendations and different plans
  - Input from stakeholders regarding what plans proposed what and whether items have been implemented or not will be critical to success
  - This should help to identify priorities as well as barriers.
  - 1999 Public Access Plan
- Wayfinding
  - Lots of signage on 28 & 30
  - Current sign plan
  - Signs for parking areas and recreation opportunities continue to be installed
  - http://www.geniuslociplan.com/wayfinding-signs-projects/
- Mobility
  - Catskill Mountain Scenic Byway
  - Mountain Clove Scenic Byway (Greene Co., 23A)
  - Bus stops vs. stations
  - Lots of visitors arrive by bus
  - UCAT (Ulster County)
  - Pine Hills Trailways (comes from NYC)
  - Catskill Carriage

    - Some transportation services will add stops along routes if scheduled/requested ahead of time on an individual basis
- Accessibility
    - Parking areas - some are just pull offs for hunting or fishing, some have trailheads
    - Need to provide access to all skill levels
    - Need more family friendly recreation options
- Maps and Data
    - The data needs to be cleaned up
    - Symbols and data need to distinguish between types of campsites (sites versus grounds, for instance)
    - It would be nice if the map included specific names of economic centers (towns and hamlets), attractions, larger destinations and attractions, etc. where possible.
    - Other conservation lands probably refer to Nature Conservancy, OSI and other similar, Woodstock Land Conservancy lands, etc.
    - Summits - what are the true summits - map shows way too many
- Bicycling
    - Consider opportunities for basic skill level cycling
    - Bike rentals in centers - arrive by bus, rent bike, explore
    - Mountain Biking World Cup held in Windham
- Trail Rating System
    - Need to alert visitors to preparedness needs
    - Trails should be rated according to duration and level of difficulty
    - Visitors should be educated about how to be prepared (water, extra layers, etc.)
- Branding
    - Absence of large-scale region and park branding
    - Difficult to tell at which point you are entering or leaving the park / area
    - Consistent messages needed about what is available where Consider packaging experiences - e.g. “Saranac Six” to encourage visitors to branch out, connect with more centers, and utilize more recreation opportunities
- Connectivity
    - How to connect visitors to economic centers
    - Need to connect visitors to activity to centers
    - Promote community hubs and resources
    - Adirondack Hut to Hut is a good example
    - Eastbranchaccess.com

Monticello (December 12, 2017)

- Project Introduction
- Survey
    - Can the responses/data be sorted by county?
    - Should ask:
        - Where do you enter?
        - Where do you stay?
        - Where do you recreate?
        - Is snowmobiling in the survey?
    - Mongaup has a snow mobile club / trails association, which helped to have it allowed in some places
- Gateways and Key Destinations
    - Due to geography, some destinations can be reached more easily from specific directions - north, south, east, west
- Park Metrics
    - Will need to take into account that each county and the resources it has is different
    - Ulster County has greater financial resources than most others
- Mapping and Data
    - Which places and connectors should be tied together?
    - How are gateways determined? What about communities just outside of the plan area?
        - Livingston Manor is an important gateway
        - Monticello and Liberty were historically considered part of the Catskills and functioned as gateways
        - Have potential to provide needed infrastructure and to meet certain needs for increased recreation
        - Consider connections (vehicular and recreational) to and from the plan area and the role they can play
- Fishing
    - Fishing is a large draw in Sullivan County
    - Fly Fishing Museum
    - NYS DEC Fish Hatchery
- Themes
    - Promotion of themes in the Catskills may help to capitalize on recreation opportunities and attract more visitors (fishing, series of peaks, packaged experiences)

Kingston (December 13, 2017)

- Project Introduction
- National Park Service
    - Karl Beard with NPS at Hyde Park is an excellent resource for trails
- SUNY Potsdam conducted an economic study on the effects of long distance backpacking
- County website has a Biking and Hiking Guide
    - ReConnect: https://ulstercountyny.gov/maps/recreation/
- Ashokan Rail Trail (ART)
    - http://ulstercountyny.gov/planning/ashokan-rail-trail
    - Link between watershed and activities
    - Will connect West Hurley to Boiceville (11.5 mile trail)
- Esopus Delaware Case Study
    - 2009 LWRP - good reference study
- Typology and Methodology for capitalizing on recreation opportunities in the Catskills
    - Gateways - primary and secondary
    - Junctions - centers with specific amenities
        - Access to lodging, place(s) to eat, restrooms, connector trails
        - Information Centers (with or without staff, depending on size and location
            - Consistent branding and easily recognizable
    - Connectors
        - Routes connection junctions, other connectors, and nodes
            - Shuttle
            - Multi-Use Path
            - Bike Route/Trail
    - Nodes - Summits, overlooks, museums, historic sites, points of interest
    - Regional Drivers - i.e. Bethel Woods, Hyde Park, Bridge Across the Hudson, Hunter Ski Resort
        - If Minnewaska State Park is full, where do you go?
        - Stewart Airport in Newburgh offers cheap international flights - capitalize on this
        - New casino coming in Sullivan County
- Four-season opportunities
    - Pine Hill
        - Briefly open for swimming, should be open all year
- More lean-to shelters and loops
- Rail trails
    - Potential for 38-mile rail trail from Kingston to Highmount
    - Potential for 80 mile segmented and connected trail
    - Link Belleayre and Pine Hill
- Visitor infrastructure
    - Phoenicia - seeing a lot more visitors and interested buyers lately
    - Housing is being lost to Airbnb - companies being formed to buy up properties for Airbnb investment
    - Limited utilities will limit what centers can support
        - Needs to be a strategy for what can be located where
        - The Blue Hole in Denning is an example that should be considered
        - Small stream overrun by thousands of visitors)
    - Garbage - no place to put it, campers leave it on the side of the road and at pull offs, because there is no infrastructure for garbage
    - Bathrooms are needed
- Water Access
    - There is water everywhere, but very limited access

    - Non-motorized boats can be used in a few reservoirs, but must be steam-cleaned
    - Docks are not always accessible
    - Views of water are limited
- Mountain Biking
    - Tremendous potential
    - World Cup in Windham
    - DEP has been a major obstacle to many bike connectors
    - Lots of trails are not maintained and therefore not usable
    - Result is low records of use (but no recognition that this is due to their poor condition)
    - Should be a connection between Boiceville and Phoenicia
    - Overlook Loop - can get information from Bryan Roberts
    - Round Top in the Northeast Kingdom is a good example of mtn. Biking trails that utilize private lands
- Policy Changes
    - DEP is seen as an organizational barrier to some trail connections in the Watershed
    - Need more flexibility for allowing and maintaining trails on DEP Land
    - Some rec projects should be exempt from DEP stormwater regulations
    - Requests for changes should be targeted at logical connections and points of access
    - Critical that agencies work together
        - Consider having a panel that meets quarterly (DOT, DEP, DEC, Counties, Key Stakeholders, etc. to review status of rec plan implementation

Delhi (December 13, 2017)

- Project Introduction
- Finger Lakes Trail runs through the Catskills (state-wide trail)
- More trailheads are needed
- Public parking areas for trails is needed
- Great Western Catskills
    - Hiking Trail System
    - Goal is to connect Stamford to Walton
    - Should connect to water access
- Coalition of Watershed Towns
    - Meets 3rd Monday of every month at the CWC office
    - Great way to reach lots of town supervisors and town-level officials
- Policy Changes
    - Need more flexibility from DEP for access to recreation opportunities
- Packaging Experiences
    - Consider utilizing fire towers
    - Need more assets in Delaware Co. watershed area
    - Picnic sites
- Fishing
    - Lots of fishing in Hancock, Downsville and surrounding areas
    - Major rainbow trout fishing in Walton
    - Famous fish hatchery
- Gateways
    - Lots of people enter from Oneonta
- Farm Land
    - Lots of farmland in Delaware County
    - Potential for agritourism
    - Brew trails?

Andes (June 11, 2018)

Feedback received at Delaware County's morning session focused on trails, DEP policy, and access to water, and feedback received during the afternoon session focused on maintenance of existing facilities, connecting existing trails with regional multi-use paths, and the DEC lands. In general, attendees expressed a feeling that existing DEP policies were too restrictive and did not allow for economic capitalization of outdoor recreation activities. Specifically, a lack of developed and marketable trails, restrictions on camping, and a lack of well-maintained parking limited the economic potential of the surrounding land. Workshop attendees suggested that access and trail development be written into purchase agreements that provide the towns or the county with funds to build and maintain recreation facilities and parking access on DEP parcels. Additional feedback from attendees focused on the difficulty that non-profit groups faced when trying to gain access to DEP parcels to provide maintenance, to update trail information/guidance, or to host events. Barriers discussed included limiting insurance requirements and DEP restrictions on bicycling. Below is a summary of additional feedback received in Delaware County, sorted by physical facility recommendations, programmatic recommendations, and policy recommendations.

- Facilities
    - Better maintain Bear Springs and Bear Pen area hiking and snow mobile trails and show on recreation maps, develop improved snowmobile access at Bear Pen
    - Show Walton Ridge trails on trail maps and include wayfinding signage in Walton Village
    - Increase the amount of formal parking on or near publicly accessible lands and plow the parking in winter months
    - Encourage partnerships with the school and the Village to build trails that connect to: State lands, behind schools, the hospital, and SUNY Delhi
    - Use signage to indicate what uses are allowed on which lands
    - Improve Route 30 at-grade crossing north of Margaretville
    - Establish recreation hub in Arkville at new water discovery center
    - Show snow mobile club trails on public lands on recreation maps
    - Include foot trails, lean to's, and scenic vistas in recreation maps
    - Develop mountain biking trail from Route 23 to existing Maple Crest Trail
    - Develop trail at end of Bogs Road that connects to Plattekill ski area
    - Include natural features on recreation maps: open vies, swim areas, waterfalls, quarries, etc.
    - New Walton, Hamden, and Delhi Boat launches need better signage and improved maps
    - Develop a rail trail from Delhi to Hamden
    - Develop the West Brand Canoe and Kayak Blue Trail
    - Include trails on SUNY area land on recreation maps
    - Connect existing trails to the Finger Lakes Trails system
    - Stripe bicycle facilities along County Route 18
    - Water levels are too low in the summer for new DEP boat launches on the west branch of the Delaware River

    - Coordinate with BOCES and SUNY Delhi to encourage trail stewardship
    - Promote Delhi trail system in broader/regional tourism network
    - Consolidate agencies to bring resources together for marketing
    - Develop and promote the Delaware County Triathlon
- Policies
    - Increase public access to more land that is not directly related to water supply
    - Combat the growing presence of ticks
    - Shift some areas from hunting access to recreation and public access – There are fewer hunters and hunting doesn't bring the revenue it used too.
    - Promote hunting and combat ticks by stocking lands with game birds that eat ticks
    - Change existing insurance requirements to allow for lands to be used for recreations-specific activities
    - Add cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing to allowed uses
    - Increase number of allowable activities with permit and include bird watching, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and foraging
    - Encourage Towns to allow on-street parking near publicly accessible parcels
    - Explore opportunity to allow remote camping and build remote camp sites into trail networks
    - Area residents should have access to weekly or monthly, not daily, permits
    - The DEC should revise its policy and allow volunteer groups to maintain trails

Mt. Tremper (June 11, 2018)

Feedback received at the public workshops in Ulster County touched on the marketing of existing recreational facilities, development of a connected regional trail network, mountain bicycling, swimming, environmental stewardship, connections to economic centers, and providing trails for people of all ages and abilities. A lot of excitement was expressed about the soon to be constructed Ashokan Rail Trail and there was a strong desire among workshop attendees to explore options additional connections from the trail to local economic centers. Potential connections discussed included working with the New York State Department of Transportation to implement bicycle lanes that would connect Boiceville to Phoenicia while still allowing the Rail Explorers to function in their current location. There was also a strong desire to provide trailheads starting at local economic centers and/or to explore bicycle-related connections from economic centers to nearby trailheads. The potential for a shuttle service that would stop at key destinations (Belleayre Mountain, Windham Mountain, Hunter Mountain), local economic centers (Phoenicia, Woodstock, etc.) was also discussed, along with recreation access points (i.e. key trailheads, interpretive centers, etc.).

A recurring theme was the need for better environmental stewardship, including educating visitors about respecting their surroundings and picking up after themselves. Many attendees suggested the inclusion of this kind of information at trailheads. Along similar lines of educating users, many stakeholders suggested that welcome and interpretive centers offer skills labs and workshops for those new to the area or a particular type of recreation. In the same spirit, there was tremendous support for having a trail ranking system that could be used to educate visitors about difficulty levels of various hiking routes and the gear and hydration requirements for using certain facilities.

There was tremendous interest in having more options for mountain biking and it was suggested that the DEP consider exploring options for allowing this in select areas. A similar desire for more swimming opportunities was expressed as this seems to be a large gap in recreation opportunities in many parts of the Catskills. Many participants expressed interest in more packaged experience programming such as the creation and marketing of loops such as a Bed & Breakfast loops and the Fire Towers Passport program. Another consistent theme was the need for the maintenance of existing facilities. There are some trailheads that are difficult to find and some trails have not been maintained properly and are now difficult to use. Below is a summary of additional feedback received in Ulster County, sorted by physical facility recommendations, programmatic recommendations, policy recommendations, and locations of potential overuse.

- Facilities
    - Expand Hudson Valley electric vehicle charging stations to Catskills region
    - Create trail loops that connect campsites
    - Create trail loops that connect bed and breakfasts/inns
    - Create ADA-accessible trail loops along waterways
    - Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connections between Empire State Trail in Kingston and Route 28 corridor
    - Add bicycle infrastructure and bicycle repair stations in economic centers and campground areas
    - Stripe 5' bike lanes from Phoenicia to Boiceville, connect to Ashokan Rail Trail
    - Improve the maintenance of the Mt. Tobias trail and create a multi-use trail that connects to Wilson Campground
    - Improve access to Broad Street Hollow and sign as hiking trail
    - Expand boat put-in area at Rondout Reservoir
    - Show primitive camp sites on area recreation maps
    - Build a pedestrian bridge to the Interpretive Center, and construct trails from Interpretive Center that connect to existing trails
    - Develop trails and public access to Phoenicia Wild forest
    - Explore opportunity to improve cellular service in the region
    - Explore opportunity to develop a hut-to-hut trail
    - Create a trail connection to the Empire State Railway Museum in Phoenicia
    - Promote the use of Rochester Hollow
    - Provide additional formal opportunities for mountain biking
- Programs
    - Teach outdoor recreation skill classes to visitors at the Interpretive Center
    - Consolidate economic council's information
    - Offer educational programs about respecting the environment and resource conservation
    - Create and encourage a stewardship program
    - Offer additional educational materials regarding regulations in aquatic areas
    - Rank hiking trails by level of difficulty and include gear required and physical ability level on maps or in marketing materials
    - Provide additional staff for maintenance and visitor interaction
    - Consolidate online information portal and include social media icons / links
    - Establish a shuttle connecting Boiceville to Pine Hill
    - Establish partnerships to promote the Fire Towers passport program as an experience similar to "The 3,500 Club"
    - The UCAT bus service would be better utilized if its reputation were improved
- Policies
    - Increase number of water bodies where swimming is allowed
    - Increase number of trails where mountain biking is allowed
    - Increase access to water overlooks, especially those on private land
- Overuse Issues
    - Kayaking at Yankee Town Pond potentially leading to negative environmental impacts
    - Require reservations for areas that are overused

Cairo (June 12, 2018)

Feedback received at the public workshops in Greene County focused on trail development, trail access (shuttles, parking and universal accessibility), stewardship of facilities, state funding for maintenance, and bicycle trail systems (both single track mountain bike and multi-use trails). There was a long discussion about the need for increased access to multi-use trails, which provide access more universal access to nature for older adults and families. Attendees expressed a feeling that the future of tourism in the region would be linked to the family-friendly recreation experiences that provided multiple opportunities for economic capitalization.

There was also an in-depth discussion of single-track mountain biking as being a major driver or tourism and a potential resource for additional tourist dollars. The conversation dwelled on bicycle trail access on recently converted NYSDEC "wilderness" designated lands as well as the disruption of bicycle-related facilities by DEP owned parcels. Some attendees recommended a greater allocation of funding for maintenance of existing facilities and adjustment of access requirements to meet current demand. Below is a summary of additional feedback received in Greene County, sorted by physical facility recommendations, programmatic recommendations, policy recommendations, and locations of potential overuse.

- Facilities
    - Establish a connection from the Ashokan Rail Trail to the Empire State Trail
    - Expand number of parking spaces at Mountain Top Historical Society for Kaaterskill Falls access
    - Establish a cantilevered pedestrian route from Molly Smith parking area to Break Neck Ridge along Route 23A
    - Establish formal access to and stewardship of Pratt Rock
    - Establish ADA-accessible rail trails and "front country" experience
    - Establish South Street Rail Trail in Windham
    - Establish trail connection from Hathaway trail to Tannerville
    - Establish trail connection from Colgate Lake to Round Top Mountain
    - Increase parking capacity at Elm Ridge access point and establish bathroom area
    - Develop formal trail around Colgate Lake
- Programs
    - Combine trail and land stewards work with Rangers and Foresters and different departments within DEC for unification
    - Explore the possibility of a shuttle system for hikers and public access, especially encouraging the use of the parking lot in Tannersville
    - Trail races are bringing more economic opportunity and should be marketed
- Policies
    - Develop stronger maintenance and stewardship plans outside of the Unit Management Plans
    - Change policy to allow mountain biking on Kaaterskill Rail Trail single track and on DEP lands in general
    - Explore opportunities for trail steward program funding from activists, the public, and corporate sponsors
    - Establish more state funding and support for the DEC
    - Encourage DEC to establish formal consent to allow bicycling on Tannersville Rail Trail
    - Encourage the DEP to adopt sustainable trail building techniques developed by the mountain biking community

- Overuse Issues
    - Blue Hole is significantly over crowded
    - Colgate Lake and Echo Lake will become over-crowded as people move away from Blue Hole crowds
    - Devils Path is becoming too crowded
    - Molly Smith parking area presents a dangerous pedestrian environment

Livingston Manor (June 12, 2018)

Feedback received at the public workshop in Sullivan County focused on the need for wayfinding, maintenance of existing facilities, connecting from existing facilities to economic centers, making it easier for stewardship groups to work with the DEC and DEP on maintenance and improvement projects, and capitalizing on recreation opportunities. In Sullivan County, many of the economic centers are more removed from the State- and City-owned lands, making connections to economic centers more difficult. For this reason, workshop attendees expressed that wayfinding and signage were particularly important for the county. There was a strong desire to create gateway entrances that would brand the park and provide greater locational recognition, much in the same way that national parks are branded. Smaller wayfinding signage were also discussed as critical because many roads are unlabeled and cell services is limited, making it difficult for visitors to navigate from place to place.

There was also a desire to create a stronger connection between the campgrounds and surrounding economic centers. Literature and maps at the campgrounds that would let visitors know about local economic centers to visit was identified as a potential recommendation. One workshop attendee suggested that DEC allow businesses to post information and flyers at campgrounds and other major tourist gathering places. Many attendees expressed an interest in having more visitor centers and/or information kiosks in local economic centers that visitors could easily recognize and use as a wayfinding tool for anywhere in the Catskills.

Another common thread was the need for more trail maintenance and trash pickup. The three primary suggestions for addressing this were to provide more signage and information about the importance of respecting nature and not littering, to increase maintenance capacity and routine maintenance, and to facilitate relationships with local activist groups willing and interested in helping with maintenance and cleanup.

Below is a summary of additional feedback received in Sullivan County, sorted by physical facility recommendations, programmatic recommendations, and policy recommendations.

- Facilities
    - Establish formal gateway signage to mark boundaries and entry points
    - Connect to the O+W rail trail and establish connection to Livingston Manor
    - Improve wayfinding signage for recreational opportunities
    - Establish formal snowshoe trail loop
    - Establish connection between Mongaup Pond and nearby economic centers
    - Establish “Permit Only” signage before route 151A near Blue Hole
    - Provide more facilities for trash and additional resources for trash clean up
    - Make it easier for stewardship groups to work with DEC and DEP on facilities efforts
    - Explore opportunities for providing more parking near areas where it is limited and does not meet the demand
    - Provide inviting shuttle service between key destinations (campgrounds, local hamlets and villages, major tourist attractions, etc.)

- Programs
    - Consider promoting DeBruce as an area with no cell service specifically for un-plugging
    - Think carefully about how different trails and areas are promoted to prevent overuse.
    - Create a trail ranking system to provide information about difficulty levels.
    - Educate users about what kind of equipment and fitness is needed for use of certain facilities.
- Policies
    - Establish additional day use options on Rondout

Catskill (November 7, 2018)

Feedback received at a targeted stakeholder meeting in Greene County included:

- Trails
    - General support for a Catskill Loop Trail
    - Support for development of a Trail Towns program
        - Windham is developing something similar and might be a good town to pilot the program
    - Need additional connections/improvements to Kaaterskill Falls
    - Windham Path
        - Offers accessible routes
        - Trying to connect to connect to Roundtop
        - Having trouble with NYC DEP on trail surface material
        - The goal of the Windham Path is to connect to lots of recreation opportunities and to expand those opportunities through additional trail links
        - Nick Bove with WARF (Windham Area Recreation Foundation) and owner of the Catskill Mountain Outfitters is a good contact
- Bicycling
    - There's a need for safer on-road bicycling routes
    - Need better protection for bicyclists through separated/protected bikeways
    - Cannot promote through the Bicycle Coalition what is not safe to bicycle
- Accommodations
    - Trying to promote creative lodging opportunities in the region
    - Trying to appeal to Millennials
    - Windham's East Wind Lodge (Bjorn Boyer) is a good example with yurts and glamping along Windham Path
    - Stowe is a really good example of typing into economic centers
- Other activities
    - There's increased interest in the region for bird watching
        - It could be marketed more heavily
- Accessibility
    - Windham Adaptive Sports Foundation promotes adaptive recreation
    - They focus on skiing but include year-round reaction among a diverse range of activities
    - They would like to connect their facilities to more trailheads and recreation opportunities
    - Kaaterskill Falls is a good example of a destination with multiple paths that accommodate different levels of difficulty
    - Would like to see more paths that accommodate varying levels of difficulty from the same start location
- Information Sharing
    - Would like to see mapping at Catskill Visitor Center updated more frequently
    - Format and message need to be consistent across the region
    - Supportive of downloadable app to find recreational opportunities and local amenities
    - Counties are obligated to promote the whole county and can't show special preference for just the Catskill Park or Hudson Valley, so a regionwide mobile app may make it easier for a while county or multiple counties to participate.

    - Greene County's marketing strategy is to get people to local destinations through their website and regional outreach. Once at the destination, the strategy is to provide more specific information.
    - Volunteer events should be marketed differently than other events to avoid oversaturation.
    - Millennials want to find hidden gems, such as creative lodging options.
    - Supportive of the idea of a trail ratings system and would like to see applied consistently throughout the region.
    - County can help disseminate information and events, like they did for Blue Hole.
- Mobility
    - Greene County just expanded Greene County Transit to 8 routes, including a new service that will travel across the river to connect with the community college, train stations, etc.
    - Support the idea of a trailhead service that connects people from an arrival point to a recreation opportunity.
    - Trailways will make on-demand stops, but overall, it's a limited system.
    - Tannersville and Windham have good bike rental options.
    - Don't yet see a market for bike share, as rentals seem to be more sustainable for now.
- Stewardship
    - Windham Mountain has a great summer camp program that connects youth to the outdoors; they'd be a potential partner for disseminating stewardship messages.
    - Support the consistent promotion of Leave No Trace, Stay on Trails, and other wilderness education.
    - Educating people about food storage in bear country is a critical public safety issue.
- Inclusivity
    - Hunter Mountain translates information into eight languages
- Hunting
    - Lots of places to access for fishing, but not so hunting parking places.
    - Not seen as being as important to attracting visitors as trails are.

Tannersville (November 7, 2018)

- Asset management
  - Need for usable/accessible GIS data for non-governmental use
  - Issues with data accuracy
- Trails
  - Strong desire for more long-distance trails
  - Recommend seeking input from the 3500 Club and NY/NJ Trail Conference
  - Route 28 cuts off trails, currently there's only one trail crossing.
  - Good opportunity for more trailheads connects to the Huckleberry Trail system in Tannersville (awarded $500k in CFA money in 2016; planning, mapping, and cost estimates have been completed)
  - Phase 3 of the Kaaterskill Rail-Trail currently under way, with the goal to connect Hunter to the Escarpment Trail and Devil's Path
  - Need more trailhead connections from the Devil's Path
  - Need connection to Kaaterskill Rail-Trail from Colgate Lake
  - Need connections to Mountain Top Arboretum
  - Hunter connects to Roundtop via the Escarpment Trail, explore possibility of Hunter-Roundtop-Windham as an east portion of big loop
  - Potential loop between Hunter-Roundtop-Colgate Lake
- Mobility
  - Route 23A needs bicycle facilities (Michelle Yost can provide a DOT map showing all trail intersections with Route 23A)
  - Elm Ridge has good bike trails but need better bikeway connectivity to it
  - Need primitive bike trail between Colgate Lake and Deer Mountain Inn (could there be a land swap?)
  - Strong desire for shuttle service
    - Hunter is currently not included in the Greene County Transit system, with only one stop on Wednesdays at a grocery store
    - Hunter Mountain Ski Resort is interested in being a partner but does not want to spearhead
    - Hunter and Catskill are exploring a shuttle service between Palenville and Tannersville
    - Shuttles could be financed through parking fees
    - Can be paired with existing online registration system
    - Would like to see all parking on Rt. 23A removed to encourage shuttle service
    - Keene in the Adirondacks has a model shuttle service
    - Windham has a winter shuttle system funded by Chamber, Windham Mountain, and Windham Foundation
  - Water Street Market in New Paltz is a good example of a bike loaner program; it supports trips on the River to Ridge Trail
  - Desire for more mountain biking facilities
- Water Recreation
  - Nicholson's campground in Gilboa has a good kayak rental system
  - The Gooseberry Creek Recreational Management Plan calls kayak kiosk rental system in Tannersville at the Rip Van Winkle Lake

- Accessibility
    - Need more parking and restrooms
    - Laurel House parking lot needs more restroom facilities (currently NYSDEC provides 2 porta-pots for hundreds of users and they are overused and underserviced)
    - Believe that if trash receptables were provided, many more people would pick up after other visitors
- Information Sharing
    - Need expansion of Catskill Visitor Center
    - Hunter's location makes is a good northern gateway to the region
    - The Mountain Top Historical Society could function as a satellite branch (currently outgrowing existing building, would like to have a pavilion like at the Catskill Visitor Center)
    - Could create direct connections to North-South Lake and the Kaaterskill Rail Trail.
    - Mountain Top Arboretum is a good resource for sharing stewardship messaging
    - CPAC is a great place for sharing ideas, projects, and resources.
    - NYSDEC has approved new gateway signage; Peter Frank has the design and it's been shared with DOT.
- Marketing
    - Explore "gourmet cycling" packages
    - Hudson River Art Trail is a good example of an existing packaged experience
- Dispersion
    - Would like to see a permit system for Kaaterskill Falls
    - Could pair permit system with shuttle service as a means of funding and addressing parking problems (reward energy efficient travel)
    - Current system ties up rangers who now have to spend all of their time managing parking instead of managing recreation resources
- Inclusivity
    - Catskills has a long history of everybody feeling welcomed
    - The Arboretum sees big, diverse groups

Liberty (November 1, 2018)

- Trails
  - Connect Upper Delaware region to Catskills as part of new long-distance trails
  - O&W Rail-Trail is important and would connect economic centers like Livingston Manor and Ulster County
  - Would like to see more use of existing facilities before constructing new ones
- Trail Towns
  - Sullivan County likes the concept but don't want communities to feel too branded
  - It's important for each town to have it's own character/quality
  - Support the idea of a "kit of parts" to help develop a regional brand
  - Don't want to be part of a national branding system
  - Example: RAGBRAI annual bike ride from Missouri River to Mississippi River connects between economic centers
- Mobility
  - Consider pairing scenic byways with protected bicycle lanes
  - Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
    - NYSERDA is working on this (potential source of funding)
- Information Sharing
  - Trail Ratings
    - Sullivan County uses Trailkeeper to map their trails; it also serves as a way to educate visitors about safe trail use, environmental stewardship, and levels of difficulty
    - Could expand use throughout region
    - Would be nice to also promote trail condition updates (Catskill Mountain Keeper already does some of this)
  - Electronic Kiosks
    - This was attempted in Sullivan County but cell service was too spotty and they were removed
    - Might be worth speaking to Herb and Roberta from the Sullivan County Visitors Association about lessons learned
  - Mobile Phone Application
    - Would like to see a comprehensive app that could be used live or downloaded ahead of time so that it is not reliant on cell service
    - Could include stewardship education, events, etc.
- Stewardship
  - NPS tried trash receptacles in Upper Delaware but found it was mostly used for household trash, so they removed them
  - The region lacks good Keep America Beautiful groups; could be a way of growing stewards and volunteers; has helped with litter reduction in other parts of the country
  - Funding for school trips should be included as a way to promote/develop stewardship
- Branding
  - Counties are tied to funding and advertising; lack the flexibility to buy into larger system

APPENDIX D

Plan Review

General Recreation Plans

New York State Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan (1999)

This plan identified deficiencies that hampered public use and the delivery of information about the forest preserve and recommended ways to provide better access to meet the needs of visitors, residents, and highway travelers. It sought to protect the wild character of preserve lands and to raise the profile of the preserve by expanding the vision for stewardship of the lands. It included the following strategies for improving physical access initiatives:

- Improve and complete Catskill Forest Preserve trail system
- Develop rules of the trail and procedures and education strategy
- Improve public access to water-based recreation in the Catskill Park
- Undertake a universal trail assessment of Catskill Forest Preserve trails
- Build easy access to fishing sites and sites accessible to people with disabilities

An Enhancement Concept for the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway (2002)

This concept plan helped to inventory the scenic values, recreational opportunities, history, and quaint communities along the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. It documented the qualities within natural and built communities and recognized previous accomplishments throughout the Byway. The Plan provided a list of key improvements at various locations and offered strategies to improve the overall experience along the byway:

General themes throughout the plan include promoting vehicle safety, pedestrian circulation, and bicycle circulation.

Vehicle Safety

This plan recommended creating additional turn lanes, passing lanes, and creating pull-off areas at appropriate locations for scenic viewing. Specific investigations for further vehicle safety improvements included:

- The village of Hancock, where heavy truck traffic creates conflict with downtown pedestrian and vehicular circulation
- Intersections in Cochecton, where steep grades, acute intersection angles and poor sight distance make turning hazardous
- The Route 52/97 intersection between Kelly's Home and Narrowsburg, where there is an unusual stop configuration and an acute angle at the intersection that can be confusing and dangerous
- Access onto Route 97 from the Roebling Bridge, where inadequate sight distance and pedestrian traffic makes turns onto both northbound and southbound Route 97 difficult
- The entrance to Port Jervis on East Main Street (Route 209) at Neversink Drive, where poor signal synchronizations and steep grades make the intersection dangerous

Examined critical areas where passing lanes or turn lanes and/or turn-outs might be created along the route to enhance safety:

- Narrowsburg
- Route 97 and the Roebling Bridge
- Lumberland
- Examine the feasibility of creating pull-off areas at appropriate intervals that provide viewing and interpretative opportunities
- Hawk's Nest, where existing pull-offs are small and difficult to access from the northbound lanes
- The Basket Creek Bridge, where the high scenic attraction value of the location and lack of places to stop and enjoy the view results in people attempting to stop in an unsafe manner
- Cochecton Train Station, where local efforts have restored a ca. 1850 historic structure
- At the top of the hill just east of Somerset Lake, where there is a marvelous view of the road disappearing into the distance
- Across Route 97 from the Delaware Valley Central School, where a former pull-off can be improved with the installation of paving, landscaping, and other design features as well as the selective clearing of trees to reestablish views
- At the dual gravel pull-offs that currently exist towards the top of the hill just north of Grassy Swamp Brook, a short trail that leads to the top of the hill could be created to allow access to its view
- The waterfalls above Minisink Ford
- Along the Upper Delaware River between Pond Eddy and Knight's Eddy
- The NYSDOT pull-off in Handsome Eddy needs to have selective clearing of trees and the pull-off improved with restroom facilities

Pedestrian Circulation

This plan recommended enhancing pedestrian access to Byway sites to promote connectivity and offered additional recreational opportunities:

- Studies are needed in hamlets, downtown areas and along Route 97 to ensure good pedestrian connections, safety, and access between sites so pedestrians can be guided to and between them safely and enjoyably; particularly in Port Jervis, Barryville and Callicoon, where pedestrian safety is an issue due to poor sight distance, high speeds, and heavy traffic volumes
- Utilize wayfinding to help guide pedestrians along the safest, most scenic, or most direct path
- Ensure adequate handicapped accessibility
- Address pedestrian safety at busy recreational areas such as canoe, rafting, livery, and campground sites

Bicycle Circulation

- Studies are needed to plan Scenic Route Bicycle Facilities and should identify, sign, and map alternate bicycle routes on side roads to reduce bicycle/motor vehicle conflicts, especially in high-use areas, and provide for linkages to area attractions in Callicoon, Cochecton, Narrowsburg, Sparrowbush, and Port Jervis
- Signage should specifically promote the trails at Bouchouxville Forest Preserve, Ten Mile River, The D & H Canal and the River Heritage Trails, Eagle-viewing sites, information centers and NPS ranger stations, Hawk's Nest, and the view at Elks-Brox Park

Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (2008)

This plan established geographic management units for the Forest Preserve and other land administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation within the Catskill Park, as well as Forest Preserve outside the Park within Delaware County, Greene County, Sullivan County, and Ulster County. The plan directs the Department to develop management plans for all units and requires that all UMPs conform to the guidelines for the area's land classification. It is not intended to be a comprehensive public lands plan for all lands within the Catskill Park, and it only applies to sates lands administered by the Department. Relevant proposed projects/high-level concepts include:

- Abandon and close roads in wilderness to motor vehicles and block with an effective barrier
- Improve access to the Forest Preserve
- Develop design standards for Forest Preserve structures and improvements
- Increase funding for Forest Preserve Management
- Promulgate a regulation prohibiting the use of bicycles in wilderness areas
- Promulgate a regulation prohibiting the use of motorized equipment in wilderness
- Strengthen existing partnerships, reach out to establish new ones

Mountaintop Community Recreation, Cultural Resources and Scenic Quality Strategy (2009)

This plan assessed resource attractions, identified where improvements are needed, developed a plan for such needs, and recommended implementation actions. The 2009 Strategy provided a foundation for the communities to work individually and collectively on solutions to enhancing the region's resources, as well as innovative ways to market the local tourism economy. Projects identified in the plan included:

- Development of the Windham Path
- Development of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail to Haines Falls

NYC DEP Rules for the Recreational Use of Water Supply Lands and Water (2010)

This document lists rules that apply to all recreational use of New York City lands, lakes, and reservoirs owned for water supply purposes in the counties of Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Schoharie, Sullivan, ulster, Westchester to safeguard an adequate supply of high-quality drinking water while allowing compatible recreational use and enjoyment.

Mountain cloves Scenic Byway Proposed Corridor Management Plan (2011)

This plan promotes deeper awareness of the history and diverse attractions along the proposed Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway which would bisect the northern Catskill region. It presents a framework for place-based economic development and emphasizes the protection of natural resource. It provides long-term goals to establish, maintain, and enhance the Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway. Projects and high-level concepts identified in the plan include:

- Improve signage and interpretive displays within the Byway and across the mountaintop
- Improve the physical linkages between the Byway and the diverse recreational offerings within this region, including in the Catskill Forest Preserve
- Develop intersection and travelway capital improvement plans
- Enhance visitor experiences
- Proposed Byway - State Route 23A - 8.5 additional miles (3.5 existing miles)
- Proposed Byway - Platte Clove Road - 7.5 additional miles (2.2 existing miles)
- Proposed Byway - State Route 214 - 1.8 additional miles (8.8 existing miles)
- Proposed Byway - North-South Lake Road - 3.8 miles
- Proposed Byway - County Route 25 - 2.8 miles
- Proposed Byway - County Route 23C - 2.1 miles
- Provide landscape enhancements on/ around Platte Clove
- Promote access management on major corridors
- Prepare a bicycle and pedestrian plan
- Improve the look and design of hamlets
- Screen development between hamlets
- Achieve and maintain distinct community gateways
- Mitigate traffic impacts from new development
- Plan future corridor connections and enhancements with adjacent towns
- Research and craft grant applications which will advance priority project planning and implementation
- Identify ways to advance historic preservation in the three cloves
- Protect and preserve the community's 'landmarks'
- Promote conservation of the unique and special features of sites proposed to undergo development
- Consider Establishing National Register Districts in Platte and Kaaterskill Cloves
- Produce/ refine architectural and cultural resource inventories
- Foster ecotourism / place-based economic development
- Produce and position guides and background materials which will help visitors understand more about the area's diverse cultural and recreational offerings
- Support education on Hunter's History
- Refine the Byway logo
- Advance regional communication and partnerships

Economic Impact and Opportunities from Outdoor Recreational Activities (2012)

This study was commissioned by the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Catskill MountainKeeper, and Catskill Heritage Alliance for the purpose of quantifying the economic value for surrounding communities generated by recreational activities in the Central Catskills. Economic impacts generated by recreational activities and of the operations of organizations that protect and manage the natural areas of the Catskills were estimated using the Money Generation (MGM) economic impacts models. These models were developed for the National Park Service and have been used for similar evaluations of many parks around the country. The following results were generated by the analysis:

- Outdoor recreational activities that rely on public lands and protected lands attracted a total of 1,717,927 visitors. These visitors had an estimated economic impact on the region's economy of $46,207,000 and supported 980 jobs.
- All outdoor recreational activities, including both those that rely on public and protected lands and those that rely on private lands, attracted a total of 2,496,753 visitors. These visitors had an estimated economic impact of $114,768,000 on the region's economy and supported 2,413 jobs.
- NYSDEC and NYC DEP operations generated an estimated economic impact of $62,403,156 and supported 1,571 jobs. Because of concerns about the accuracy of the operations spending and employment numbers provided, these estimates were judged to be highly speculative and actual impacts may be significantly greater.

A review was then conducted to identify potential unrealized or undeveloped recreational opportunities in the Catskills. Based on this review, a number of previously identified initiatives were recommended for further consideration, including:

- The Route 28 Central Catskills Scenic Byway
- Expansion of trail networks
- Continued expansion of the DEP Reservoir Boating Program
- Centralizing marketing activities
- Increasing marketing to international visitors
- Increasing marketing to downhill skiers
- Development of art and art history tourism, agritourism, ecotourism, and wildlife viewing

Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway (2014)

The Central Catskills Collaborative puts forward a comprehensive nomination to designate approximately 65 miles of States Routes 28, 28A, 214, 42, 30, and local roads as a scenic byway. The plan outlines numerous goals and action-oriented recommendations to advance the development of the byway, including:

- Improve the interpretation of the Catskill Park and the New York City Watershed for byway travelers. This includes developing a system of wayfinding signage for outdoor public resources adjacent to the byway; establishing a kiosk "trail"; and developing more interpretive information at specific watershed sites such as the Ashokan Reservoir and the Shandaken Tunnel outlet
- Implement a system of wayfinding signs for state resources along the byway, including hiking trailheads, public fishing areas, and campgrounds
- Implement a system of wayfinding signs for state resources along the byway
- Pursue improved sign management strategies and implement a system of tourist oriented directional (TOD) signs
- Improve signage and markings for existing bike routes and explore the creation of new bike routes
- Develop a Kiosk "Trail" to Inform Travelers
- Encourage the continued application of the new Catskill Park logo signs along Routes 28 and 28A, as well as adjacent county, town, and village roads
- Work with DOT and DEC and other stakeholders to implement a system of wayfinding signs for recreational resources, as well as tourist oriented directional signs that will identify businesses along and adjacent to the byway
- Encourage the continued development of a "kiosk trail" along the byway that will interpret the area's resources and provide helpful information to travelers
- Make regional connections with other byways and other potential byways. Route 214 from Phoenicia to Lanesville will connect with the proposed Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway; Route 42 from Shandaken to the Greene County line is a scenic arm of this proposed byway that could be linked with future byway efforts in Greene County
- Pursue the established and relevant objectives of corridor-wide and local planning efforts as they relate to realizing the vision of the scenic byway (e.g. the Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan; the Tourism Development Plan for the Central Catskills; and Stream Management Plans)
- Explore with NYC DEP and other parties the use of lands along the Ashokan Reservoir for purposes other than fishing
- Work to create multiple modes of transportation options – improved bike routes, utilization of the RR corridor, public transportation, jitneys and shuttles, and multi-modal opportunities for recreation
- Conduct a comprehensive inventory and analysis of land use tools in the seven municipalities along the byway
- Conduct locally driven viewshed inventories and analyses
- Improve access to waterways to increase outdoor recreation, support local businesses, and provide greater awareness of and appreciation for our stream systems and the watershed
- Improve the appearance and functionality of areas along Route 28 where there are existing concentrations of businesses, pedestrians and automobile traffic. Specifically, ways to improve pedestrian friendliness and implement context sensitive design should be pursued where appropriate
- Complete and implement DOT's Guidelines for the Catskill Park
- Pursue funding opportunities to implement the scenic byway corridor management plan and sustain the newly formed management entity

- Improve the interpretation of the Catskill Park and the New York City Watershed for byway travelers. This includes supporting the construction of the Catskill Interpretive Center and Water Discovery Center
- Explore improved utilization of existing turnouts and rest areas and creation of new areas as needed
- Explore utilization of the parking area (east of proposed beginning of byway at RM 28/8601/2034) to provide byway information
- Support the development of both the Catskill Interpretive Center and the Water Discovery Center at the chosen locations (Mount Tremper and Arkville) respectively; and support cooperative efforts that will advance the establishment of these visitor facilities, or components thereof
- Reinforce downtown areas and support local businesses by routing the scenic byway along the main streets of Phoenicia, Pine Hill, Fleischmanns, and Margaretville
- Encouraging growth in hamlets and villages
- Consider the establishment of non-regulatory NYS Route 28 Development Guidelines
- Create a set of bylaws to guide the procedures of byway management entity
- Work with Stream Access and Recreation Working Group and other stakeholders on developing a plan of action to modify the policy related to recreational releases to the Shandaken Tunnel and ensure mutually beneficial results for all stream users that do no harm. Moving forward, this working group plans to explore options for tunnel operations, and continue to engage in constructive dialogue with State and City officials about future protocols and procedures for Tunnel operations
- Support development of a protocol for recreational stream safety that includes input and consensus from all stakeholder groups. The protocol will include criteria to identify in-stream safety hazards and mitigation options for those hazards. Potential options may include (but are not limited to) educational/warning signage, hazard avoidance, and hazard removal. The protocol will consider the impacts of any action on human safety, habitat, and stream stability
- Develop awareness of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) control efforts and remain informed about the impact of the HWA on streams in the Ashokan watershed
- Increase the online presence of the byway among the websites of the two counties and the Collaborative and take advantage of emerging phone technologies
- Create a Scenic Byway Website
- Integrate the scenic byway within county tourism marketing plans and develop travel “packages” and messaging for byway attractions
- Promote common (and diverse) themes along the byway to help support longer and repeated visits by travelers
- Advance byway promotion efforts beyond the two counties to include the other two counties (Greene and Sullivan) in the designated Catskill Region tourism promotion area
- Include the byway in NYC-based marketing efforts
- Create a Scenic Byway Brochure
- Create a Scenic Byway Driving Tour
- With byway partners, coordinate public events and land use training sessions on byway related topics such as context sensitive design, access management, design guidelines, and site plan review
- Hold and Coordinate Corridor-Wide Events throughout the Year
- Facilitate the changeover to the new Catskill Park logo signs along the byway
- Once approved, use the Bobcat logo of the byway to develop new marketing strategies and integrate it with other regional brands
- Develop a Uniform and Comprehensive Signage System for Our Businesses, Cultural Attractions and Recreational Resources
- Create a Scenic Byway Logo

- Strengthen the intermunicipal cooperation of the Collaborative by formalizing the group as the byway management entity; forming a partnership with an area organization; pursuing funding opportunities to implement the scenic byway corridor management plan and sustain the management entity; and by serving as a proactive example of regional collaboration
- Continue to explore partnerships with educational institutions to advance components of the corridor management plan
- Communicate regularly with NYS DOT and DEC to implement outstanding recommendations from existing plans and work in partnership on future management and public access projects
- Foster increased regional coordination among chambers of commerce, lodging establishments, tourism destinations, and regional organizations for improving visitor accommodations along the byway and strengthening relationships among businesses
- In addition to improved communications with agencies (DOT and DEC), support increased dialogue between the Collaborative and local businesses to explore additional ways to enhance the provision of information and resources interpretation along the byway
- Transition the Collaborative and its advisory members from the nominating committee to a formalized board of directors that will guide and sustain the scenic byway
- Draft and adopt a Memorandum of Understanding between the Collaborative and the supporting organization

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2019)

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation prepared this plan to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency's recreation and preservation mandate. The plan serves as a status report and as an overall guidance document for recreation, resource preservation, planning, and development from 2014 through 2019. The document is also used to guide the allocation of state and federal funds for recreation and open space projects. The direction for recreation in the state is guided by three overarching initiatives:

- Enhance and Revitalize the state outdoor recreation system
- Improve connections between recreation, economics, sustainability, and healthy lifestyles
- Strengthen the Link between people, nature, recreation, and resource stewardship

Relevant proposed projects and high-level concepts in the plan include:

- Promote compatible multiple uses and maximize, as appropriate, the length of activity seasons.
- Facilitate inventories and analyses of park, recreation, natural and historic resources through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other technologies
- Evaluate existing infrastructure to address critical repair needs
- Address facility needs in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner
- Identify and encourage when feasible, the creation of recreation-ways, greenways, water trails, and blueways in and around metropolitan areas, along major water corridors and along other natural, abandoned railroad and utility corridors
- Ensure that the acquisition of open space resources is consistent with the approaches and recommendations identified in the NYS Open Space Plan
- Improve and expand the statewide commitment toward environmental sustainability in all parks, recreation and historic sites and support facilities
- Increase the use of non-fossil-fuel-based transportation, public transit and alternative transportation to and within recreational areas and open spaces
- Evaluate vulnerable coastal parks and lands to ensure natural processes are not hindered by development and embrace improvements/repairs that will prepare facilities to better handle future weather events
- Continue to inventory and identify important ecosystems and natural connectors
- Continue to work towards eradicating invasive plants, insects, and other animals statewide
- Continue wildlife management efforts to improve biodiversity in parks and natural areas
- Continue to preserve and connect natural areas and ecosystems to improve biodiversity statewide
- Continue to improve recreation facilities to ensure universal access with recognition of the needs of the aging population
- Identify new outdoor recreation opportunities for underserved communities
- Improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities through public transit, bikeways, and greenways
- Strengthen the statewide trails program for the coordination, planning and technical assistance of trail development
- Encourage the development of trails within subdivisions to provide pedestrian access to neighboring communities and facilities
- Encourage trails and open spaces in the revitalization of urban areas
- Encourage the expansion of universally accessible trail systems
- Support improvements to the canal recreation-way system
- Promote public health and safety and universal access in rehabilitation and new construction

- Continue to develop master plans, site plans, management plans, and other planning documents to facilitate the reinvention and redesign of parks and historic sites
- Maximize energy efficiency and utilize sustainable / green building materials in new facility design and construction
- Encourage the legislature to continue to keep OPRHP capital budget allocations consistent ($90 million in 2013) so that the excessive backlog of capital projects can be addressed
- Explore bike sharing opportunities in parks
- Rehabilitate and/or adaptively reuse existing recreation and historic facilities when feasible, to satisfy existing and projected recreation, interpretive and education needs
- Protect natural and cultural resources in undertaking park and historic site operation, maintenance and management activities
- Encourage the training of park, historic site and land managers in best management practices for protection of natural and cultural resources, as well as for operation and maintenance of facilities to ensure public health and safety
- Encourage the protection and/or acquisition of critical connectors between parks and open space acquisition of in-holdings and important properties adjacent to existing public landholdings
- Encourage open space preservation by assessing lands adjacent to parks and forests to gauge their potential for future acquisition
- Develop policies and procedures for reductions in energy consumption, reduction in the production of greenhouse gases through increased energy efficiency and increased use and support of renewable energy sources
- Develop policies and procedures to maximize the procurement of environmentally preferable or 'green' products and services
- Ensure practices that promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling
- Promote the procurement of locally produced commodities
- Develop "green" design standards for buildings where LEED certification may not be feasible
- Encourage the use of fee and non-fee acquisition as well as other techniques in the protection of important open space, scenic, historic, and ecologically sensitive areas
- Strengthen consistency and collaboration among state, federal and local programs and policies
- Launch a website dedicated to outdoor recreation opportunities in NYS that would combine OPRHP, DEC, county, and private recreation information in one location; the site would be interactive and searchable
- Continue to utilize social media and technology to engage younger generations and gain their interest in outdoor recreation
- Promote the outdoor recreation opportunities statewide
- Highlight New York's unique landscape and diverse recreation opportunities
- Promote greenways, water trails, and blueways as a means of urban recreation and transportation
- Develop a public health campaign to encourage people to reduce their "screen time" and get outside
- Encourage the use of trails to increase physical activity and combat the obesity epidemic, as well as reduce the risk of many chronic diseases
- Develop programming in parks for kids and adults that encourages physical activity
- Encourage local volunteer participation in the development and management of trail segments
- Continue to promote efforts to increase knowledge and awareness of biodiversity and develop statewide, local and regional approaches to biodiversity protection and maintenance
- Expand environmental and cultural education and interpretation programs throughout the state park and historic site system

- Expand existing environmental education programs throughout the state (i.e. the Taconic Outdoor Education Center; Emma Treadwell Nature Center; etc.)
- Educate staff and visitors to parks and natural areas about the importance of biodiversity and how threats like climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation and invasive species can impact and change the environment
- Take maximum advantage of conservation and youth service corps and other volunteer groups in the preservation of natural areas
- Partner with corporate sponsors to develop a bike program for eligible children
- Explore partnerships with NYS Department of Health, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and NYS Economic Development Corporation to support programs that connect New Yorkers with nature, recreation, and health
- Support NYS Department of Transportation and their efforts for the Safe Routes to School Program that encourages kids to get more physical activity by walking or bicycling to school
- Foster partnerships with like-minded companies (i.e. LL Bean and REI) to support outdoor recreation programs
- Foster partnerships between federal, state and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, trail groups and private landowners in the development and maintenance of trails
- Explore partnerships with colleges and universities to help develop and implement environmental education and interpretation programs throughout the state (see the SUNY Environmental Sciences and Forestry (ESF)—example in the Central/Finger Lakes Regions)
- Expand partnerships with established park, trail and advocacy groups
- Continue to foster partnerships with Friends groups to garner support for individual parks and historic sites

East Branch Delaware River Enhanced Recreation Plan (2015)

This plan provided direction on how local municipalities or non-profits can implement projects centered around hubs of activity with positive economic impacts, such as community centers. The plan focused on primarily on the area surrounding the Pepacton Reservoir. The following projects were identified in this plan, but were not specifically mapped due to their conceptual nature:

Margaretville

- Create handicapped-accessible fishing & boat launch areas
- Create a family-friendly walking trail on NYC DEP "fishing only" lands and promote it by utilizing signage throughout the village
- Create a formal boat put-in below Margaretville
- Enhance Dunraven "fishing piers"
- Seek to formalize public access from limit-to-limit through the entire village
- Advocate for a "catch and release" (or "no kill") fish zone through the Village

Arkville

- Create a trail network at the Water Discovery Center (WDC) and establish a recreation "hub" in the WDC area
- Work with NYSDEC to better promote the existing public fishing rights on the dry Brook

Fleischmanns

- Increase access to: Emory Brook, Bush Kill, and Vly Creek
- Fully support and maximize streamside recreational access at the Fleischmanns Village Park
- Maximize recreational access for current and future flood buyouts/relocation parcels
- Continue to improve and install wayfinding and locational recreational signage throughout the Village

Roxbury

- Create a framework to promote safe and enjoyable headwaters, boating, and open access to boating and fishing (at select locations) on Lake Wawaka
- Encourage and assist the Town and other stakeholders to promote the use of NYC DEP Lands along Catskill Scenic Trail (CST)
- Establish a small picnic area (with picnic tables and information kiosk) at a location along the CST

Andes

- Support Ballantine Park and local rail trail enhancement and expansion efforts, promote access of NYCDEC Lands
- Create an ADA-accessible fishing platform/access at state road bridge on the Tremper Kill
- Expansion of the Palmer Hill Overlook

New York City Department of Environmental Protection Filtration Avoidance Annual Report (2016)

This document reported on New York City's progress on the revised Filtration Avoidance Determination. It listed the accomplishments of agencies, organizations, and stakeholders in the region and focused largely on environmental compliance reporting. No specific projects are recommended in this plan.

Rondout Neversink Stream Program: 2017–2019 Action Plan

This plan identified the Roundout Neversink Stream Program's goals and provided a list of next steps in support of recommendations derived from stream management plans and input. The plan recommended a number of education and outreach goals relevant to the Greater Catskill Region Comprehensive Plan. The action plan is focused on six key areas:

- Protecting and Enhancing Stream Stability and Water Quality
- Floodplain Management and Planning
- Highway and Infrastructure Management in Conjunction with Streams
- Assisting Streamside Landowners (Public and Private)
- Protecting and Enhancing Riparian and Aquatic Habitat
- Stream Stewardship Education and Outreach

Unit Management Plans

Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1987)

The plan defined the management objectives for the unit and recommends the construction of four parking lots near Russell Brook and development of a new trail from the parking lots to the Mud Pond trail system.

Kaaterskill Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1987)

This Plan laid out the objectives for the unit which covers the northeast rim of the Catskill Mountains in Greene and Ulster counties. The plan contained the following recreational projects:

- Eliminate "goat path" trails
- Relocate the Escarpment Trail and construct the Long Path foot trail
- Install signage
- Construct an observation deck and railing

Dry Brook Ridge Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1988)

The Plan established the management objectives for the most easterly unit in Delaware County. The 8,893-acre unit has four non-contiguous tracts located between three towns and two counties, creating difficult management scenarios. The land cover ranges widely from brushy fields to mature forest. No projects relevant to the Greater Catskill Region Comprehensive Plan were identified in the plan.

Willowemoc-Longpong Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1991)

The Willowemoc-Long Pond Wild Forest is in the southwestern portion of Catskill Park. The unit is comprised primarily of Forest Preserve lands in the Towns of Neversink, Rockland, Denning and Hardenburgh. The unit abuts nearly all of the Mongaup Pond Campground. The plan identified the following projects:

- Construct a 10-car parking lot and establish a Frick Pond Trailhead on the Beech Mountain Road with a trail register
- Designate/mark 12.4 miles of woods roads west of Mongaup Pond as primitive use trails
- Establish a multi-use trailhead at an existing parking lot at Mongaup Pond and erect a trail register and information board
- Construct 2.7 miles of multiple use trail from Mongaup Pond to a wood road north of Frick Pond
- Construct a 15-car parking lot on the Flugertown Road
- Construct 1.5 miles of snowmobile trail from the Long Pond Trailhead Parking Lot to the existing Long Pond snowmobile trail
- Construct a 10-car parking lot at the Basily/Black Bear Road Junction
- Construct 2.5 miles of new snowmobile trail from the Hunter Road/Terwilliger Road junction to the Mongaup/Willowemoc Trail near Butternut Brook
- Construct a 10-car parking lot on the Shin Creek Road
- Improve the Mongaup Pond/Mongaup Creek snowmobile trail (5.7 miles)

- Construct two 5-car parking lots on the Shin Creek Road
- Construct 1.5 miles of multiple use trail and designate/mark an additional 1.6 miles of woods road as multiple use trail to create a 3.1-mile alternative route to Quick Lake

Indian Head-Plateau Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan (1992)

This plan stated the objectives for this unit of land located at the east edge of the Catskill Mountains in parts of Green and Ulster Counties. No projects relevant to the Greater Catskill Region Recreation Plan were identified in the plan.

Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan (1993)

The Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area is a rugged, mountainous tract with long steep-sided ridges amid an uninterrupted forest. This plan identified the resources, both natural and manmade, that make up the wilderness area. The plan recommended construction of a new 15-space parking lot and construction of 1.25 miles of new trails.

Crystal Lake Wild Forest Preserve Detached Parcel Unit Management Plan Update (1993)

This additional parcel of Crystal Lake Wild Forest Preserve is a parcel outside of the Blue Line of the Catskill Park and exempt from the typical requirements for unit management plans. However, this parcel was particularly popular with the public and may become subject to overuse. A management plan was developed to balance user needs and conservation efforts. Specific project recommendations include construction of an additional parking lot and boat launch maintenance site, as well as upgrades to existing foot trails.

Phoenicia-Mount Tobias Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1994)

This Plan set the goals and objectives for this unit which serves as a bridge between the Slide Mountain-Panther Mountain Wilderness, the Hunter Mountain Wild Forest and the Indian Head Plateau Mountain Wilderness Area. The plan outlines the following implementation projects as management objectives:

- Construct parking lot at Tremper Mountain trailhead with signage, information board and connecting spur trail
- Construct Willow Trailhead parking lot
- Install appropriate signage at Mount Tobias and destination signs along major roads
- Layout and develop trail from Willow/Tremper Mountain to Silver Hollow Notch
- Construct parking strip along the former Stony Clove and Catskill Mountain Railway in Hunter with appropriate signage

Windham High Peak Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1994)

The Windham High Peak Wild Forest Unit consists of 4,250 acres of New York State Forest Preserve and is situated at the northernmost edge of the Catskill Park. The Plan recommended to construct information bulletin boards along Windham and Peck Road.

Hunter Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1995)

This Plan sets the priorities for multiple large tracts of land surrounding the forest and nearby Towns of Hunter, Jewett, and Greene County. Specific projects recommended by the plan include:

- Bulletin boards,r boxes and signage at trailheads
- Expand parking area at Spruceton Road and Diamond Notch Trails
- Develop a trail from the Village of Hunter leading to the summit of Hunter Mountain

Balsam Lake Mountain Unit Management Plan (1996)

This Plan provides: management objectives for a five-year period, updates on accomplished projects, a list of projects for completion, and proposes new projects and issues. Five key projects were accomplished from the previous version of the plan to this plan update. Projects for updating and completion are:

- Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest UM P - Delineate 15 car parking lot, replace failing culvert and regrade road, clean ditches
- Construct Accessible Trail and Outhouse at Alder Lake
- Build 7.75 miles of new trail from Alder Lake to Balsam Lake Mountain
- Construct a primitive campsite at Beaver Meadows

Sundown Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1996)

The Sundown Wild Forest covers 27,000 acres of land and forms the south / southeasterly border of Catskill Park. The varied topography and impressive mix of natural features continue to attract an increasing number of outdoor enthusiasts. The Plan defines the management objectives for this tract and the following relevant projects:

- Improve handicapped accessibility at the Denman Mt. Vemooy Kill and Kanape areas
- Build parking lot large enough for two horse trailers and 10 cars on the north side of Furmans and Glade Hill Road at Moore Hill Road, install Forest Preserve and parking sign, bulletin board, trail register, Port-A-John and hitching posts.
- Construct shared use (hiking, snowmobile and equestrian) trail along the east side of Moore Hill Road to Denman Mt. Road and install crossing signs at two locations (about 0.6 miles)
- Build multi-use trail (snowmobile, equestrian) on Denman Mountain (about 2.3 miles) and upgrade or maintain 5 miles of existing woods roads
- Construct 0.8 mile of new hiking trail to complete a small loop from High Point Mt. to Hoopole Mountain
- Install parking lot sign at the Upper Cherrytown Road Vernooy Kill parking area
- Build 4-car parking area at Haver Road and install direction sign and parking lot sign

- Install wayside exhibit with map kiosk at the intersection of Rt. 55 and 55A
- Complete Denman Mountain multi-use trail, and complete connections with signage to Claryville and Grahamsville
- Construct wooden bridge at culvert and road at the stream crossing on the Vemooy Kill Falls Trail near Trails End Road, suitable for horses, snowmobiles, and administrative access
- Build two small pull-offs for trail access along Mill Road in Sholam-Yagerville
- Build small parking area for maximum of three cars in the southwest comer of the Lackawack Hill parcel with signage
- Construct a three-car pull off along Wild Cat Road with "Forest Preserve Access" signage

Bluestone Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1997)

This Plan encourages long term ecological stability on lands already owned by the state and maximizes access and compatible uses with natural resources and communities within the region. The area is known for its signature bluestone, shale and gravel mining which started over 100 years ago. Remnants of quarries and old wagons still scatter the landscape of oaks and white pines. Projects relevant to this plan are:

- Construct new 15 Car Lot
- Relocate 1.25 Miles of existing trail
- Bluestone Loop Trail
- Place Forest Preserve Access Sign at Dug Hill Parking Lot
- Catskill Forest Preserve interpretive kiosk

Middle Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (1998)

This area is part of the Catskill Forest Preserve in the in Delaware, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. The plan establishes management objectives for the area, and recommends the repair of dam structures at Big Pond & Huggins Lake, the development of new foot trails and snowmobile trails.

Slide Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan (1998)

This Plan defines the management objectives for the largest and most popular of the four designated wilderness areas. A variety of recreational opportunities are located on the tract, which contains the highest peak in the Catksills. The following projects were identified in this plan:

- Construct a wilderness access parking lot on Muddy Brook Road
- Erect an information board at the Giant Ledge Trailhead on County Route 47
- Rehabilitate and enlarge the Giant Ledge Trailhead parking lot
- Replace the Deer Shanty Brook foot bridge
- Construct a Lane Street Trailhead parking lot with information kiosk and trail register
- Construct a wilderness access parking lot on Route 28A
- Construct a Wildcat Mountain foot trail with a foot bridge over the West Branch Neversink River

Overlook Mountain Wild Forest Management Plan (1999)

The Overlook Wild Forest comprises roughly 590 acres in the Town of Woodstock, Ulster County, bordering the 16,800 acre Indian Head Wilderness Area. The UMP sets the management objectives and priorities for this Forest and includes the following projects:

- Replace entrance sign/direction signs
- Install interpretive exhibit at fire towers overlook

Halcott Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (2001)

This Plan presents management objectives rather than a work plan of commitments. The information within the plan is intended to serve as a reference for existing and man-made resources, a historical perspective of the area, and constraints and issues affecting the area. The following priorities are recommended in the plan:

- 2.2-mile trail from Condon Hollow Road parking lot to Turk Hollow
- 2.1-mile trail from NYS Route 42 parking lot
- Construct 6-car parking lot on Condon Hollow Road
- Construct 4-car parking lot just over Forest Preserve boundary
- Construct 5-car parking lot on Beech Ridge Road at the power line right-of-way
- Upgrade Turk Hollow Road

Shandaken Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (2005)

This Plan describes the management objectives for the Shandaken Wild Forest, located in the towns of Shandaken and Lexington. The unit consists of four separate parcels covering 5,375 acres of land. The remaining proposed projects for this unit area:

- Establish a 2-mile cross country ski/mountain bike trail in Rochester Hollow
- Construct a two-car parking area in Broad Street Hollow

Neversink River Unique Area Unit Management Plan (1997 + 2013 Amendment)

The Neversink River Unique Area Management Unit sets for the vision for reestablishing two different forest communities lost in the 18th century. This plan established the objectives for these communities, including the following projects:

- Maintain existing forest roads
- Establish the Columbine Cliff trail
- Build a footbridge over the Neversink
- Develop trails that link Bridgeville to Monticello
- Re-establish the Lost Trail
- Establish ADA-Accessible trail systems
- Develop the Wolf Brook MUA Camping Site

The 2013 Amendment to the Neversink River Unique Area UMP is intended to provide direction for further enhancing the management of this unique natural area nearly twenty years after its original plan was published. The Neversink has grown by 1,970 acres since the 1997 UMP. The 2013 Amendment proposes to:

- Establish new parking areas on Cold Spring Road and Skinner Road, establish trails from Skinner Road lot to existing trail system
- Establish a foot trail from the new Cold Spring Road parking facility to the Neversink River
- Incorporate Eden Brook Road into the trail system (contingent upon the removal of the buildings associated with the fish hatchery)

Bear Spring Mountain Public Campground Unit Management Plan (2015)

This Plan sets the operational precedent for the 31-acre parcel of the 7,141-acre Wildlife Management Area. The area has 26 miles of well-marked recreational trails accessible via two separate campgrounds. The following projects are identified in the plan:

- Repair and repave camp loop roads
- Construct new road from parking lot to pier & replace ADA-Accessible fishing pier
- Replace existing entrance booth
- Relocate trailer dump station
- Construct playground in the day use area
- Construct accessible paths from parking lot to pavilion and amphitheater
- Improve 15 existing campsites along Launt Pond
- Repair and pave Spruce Grove camping loop road
- Replace vault toilet building with shower and flush toilet facility
- Provide electric hookups at 14 sites

Mongaup Pond Public Campground Unit Management Plan (2015)

The Mongaup Pond Public Campground is a 680-acre tract of land with 75 acres primarily for recreational uses. The Plan defines the management goals and objectives of this intensely used tract and recommends the following projects:

- Construction of a new walkway
- Construction of loop trail around campground
- Construction of a new parking lot
- Construction of 6 new comfort stations, provide universal access through-out the campground, and provide equestrian facilities at the campground

Kenneth L. Wilson Public Campground Unit Management Plan (2016)

This Plan includes the goals of managing recreational programs to ensure protection of the natural resources according to Environmental Conservation law and aims to focus recreational activities in the appropriate context. Project recommendations include:

- Develop a multiple-use trail system
- Construct a universally accessible rustic playground

Devils Tombstone Unit Management Plan (2018)

The Devils Tombstone Campground is a state-owned public campground with 192 acres of recreation land. The rugged campground is located in Stony Clove near some of the highest mountain peaks in the Catskills.

APPENDIX E

Funding Sources

National Hudson River Valley Heritage Area Designation

The designation of the National Hudson River Valley Heritage Area applies to those ten counties along the Hudson River estuary. These counties, including the portion of the Catskill Park and Catskill Forest Preserve in Ulster County, are eligible for funding under this program which will provide $15 million in federal support over the next 15 years to enhance the area's historical, recreational and tourism-based activities. The administrator of these funds will be the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley.

EPA Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program

This program initiated in 1996 is designed to encourage people, organizations, business, and government to work together in their communities to improve their environment while maintaining a healthy economy and a sense of community well-being. Potential eligible activities include: demonstrating integrated approaches for protection and restoration of ecological, human and economic health; demonstrating pollution prevention across multiple sectors of the community; community cooperation among residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, education institutions, and governments; and community awareness to publicize the principles of stewardship, ecosystem management and sustainability.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Federal monies provided to state and local governments from this fund on a 50-50 matching basis for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation. Since 1965, New York has received more than $191 million from this fund, but in recent years the federal government has cut back on funding authorization.

Pitman-Robertson

Federal monies from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, apportioned to the states for wildlife conservation and hunter education.

Dingel-Johnson

Federal monies from the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, apportioned to the states for fisheries management

National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

This program provides the expertise of National Park Staff to assist communities with developing projects such as constructing new trails, conducting inventories of abandoned railroads, or simply bringing interested parties together to move a project forward.

New York State General Fund

Tax revenues in the state budget for basic maintenance and operation of DEC programs.

New York State Conservation Fund

Funds in the state budget from license sales and fines from violations of the Environmental Conservation Law designated for use in fish and wildlife related programs.

New York City Watershed Agreement

The newly created Catskill Watershed Corporation has the responsibility for the disbursement of funds received as a result of the signing of the 1997 NYC Watershed Agreement. The Catskill Fund for the Future provides $59.9 million to be used to provide loans and grants for responsible, environmentally sound development and the goals of watershed protection and job growth in the Catskill/Delaware watershed. Two million dollars are available for public education on the nature and importance of the city's water supply system and the critical role of watershed residents as stewards of water quality.

New York State Department of Economic Development/Empire State Development

Funds are available for the support of responsible, environmentally sensitive economic development projects through the use of existing NYSDED economic development information centers, a regional development program to promote regional economic development interests, a public relations and tourism development program to target the special programs and resources in the watershed, and the use of the existing industrial productivity program to help increase efficiency of new or existing watershed businesses.

Environmental Protection Fund

A legislatively designated long-term source of revenues available to meet the pressing environmental needs of the state in the fields of open space conservation, municipal park, historic preservation and heritage area projects, farmland protection, biodiversity, nonpoint source water pollution abatement and control, local waterfront revitalization programs, coastal rehabilitation projects and planning assistance. Funding for the stewardship of state parks and forest preserve lands is also available from the EPF.

Biodiversity Stewardship and Research Fund

A legislatively designated vehicle to receive funds from a variety of sources, federal, state and private, to support biodiversity stewardship, research and education in New York state.

Land Acquisition Funding

The Forest Preserve Expansion Fund is derived from the sale of detached forest preserve parcels and is available only for the purchase of other forest preserve lands. EPF funds and Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act funds may also be used for land acquisition in conformance with their guidelines. For instance, the public fishing rights program is funded by the Bond Act.

State Snowmobiling Funds NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Places, Bureau of Marine and Recreational Vehicles, provides funding to both NYS DEC and local municipalities for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails open to the public. Funds are derived from snowmobile registration fees.

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is offering a new planning assistance program in 2019 to help communities develop strategies and an action plan to revitalize their Main Streets through outdoor recreation. By conserving forests and other natural lands and making them available for outdoor recreation, small towns can boost air quality and water quality and focus development downtown. Promoting outdoor recreation can also create jobs and offer new opportunities for people to connect with the natural world.

APPENDIX F

Public Comments and Responses

Comment 1:
No strategy in the Catskills should rely too heavily on volunteers. The populations are aging and young people are in desperate need of jobs. Getting funding, such as through sales tax on luxury items, hotels and gas or even a park entry fee for non-residents, is needed. Also, creating opportunities to attract young people to settle in the region, such as creation of affordable housing, should be part of the strategy.

Response to comment 1:
The GCRCRP recognizes that maintenance of the regions public outdoor recreational facilities will require commitments from the agencies responsible for those facilities. But the plan also recognizes the value of volunteers in assisting those agencies. Attracting young people to the region is a goal supported by this plan, but affordable housing is beyond its scope.

Comment 2:
The Catskill Park is very large in size. One small Visitors Center in Mount Tremper is inadequate. The center has re-branded itself several times making finding it confusing. It has very short hours of operation, opening much later than most hikers plan to get on the trail and closing long before they have left the trail for the day. The Center misses those visitors to the park who go to Sullivan, Delaware and Greene Counties. Informational and well signed kiosks in these other counties that provided a wifi hotspot and a clean and well maintained restroom would be a huge improvement. The Center is not physically seen from the State highway, making many unsure it is even there. The one positive about the Center is that it has wifi and a restroom. These are the 2 reasons that most persons I have talked to visit. The staff needs to be more knowledgeable and the website needs improvement.

Response to comment 2:
The GCRCRP, under the Trails subsection on "Trail Community Kiosks," beginning on Page 37 discusses the creation of Trail Community Kiosks that would expand Catskills Visitor Center services remotely. Within the Mobility Section, under the subsection "Auto Access," beginning on Page 125 discusses the need to add satellite locations of the Catskills Visitor Center at key entrances to the Catskill Park. In addition, one of the proposed recommendations under the Marketing section on Page 162 is the creation of remote kiosks in the metropolitan region.

Comment 3:
More effort to revitalize towns through trails adjacent to hubs by increasing the density of activities that are accessible from the towns

Response to comment 3:
The GCRCRP proposes the development of a Trail Town program, to include multiple trail opportunities which are easily accessible from the community.

Comment 4:
My main comment centers on the plan's vision of the Catskills. It is clear that much thought has gone into presenting a template for connecting towns and recreational opportunities. Many of the case studies and ideas seem very current and up-to-date.

Response to comment 4:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 5:
Goal 3 needs to include "pedestrian-friendly" before infrastructure. Making pedestrian walk overs or under major roads, connecting trails and simply widening roads to include pedestrian lanes would improve the Catskills towns so much.

Response to comment 5:
While we agree that infrastructure improvements made related to roadways should be pedestrian friendly, Goal 3 specifically refers to the establishment of accessible trails and associated facilities for individuals with disabilities to improve access to the natural areas of the Catskills.

Comment 6:
Extending the Devils Path to Bearpen would be amazing. But I'd also like to see a direct trail from downtown Roxbury to Bearpen via Whiteman Mtn and Hack Flats. The trail halfway up Whiteman already exists via the DEP "Grinch House" parcel, with lots of old logging roads all the way up that mountain, or the Town of Roxbury water supply land. This would give Roxbury a terrific "trail town" advantage if you could hike right from town up a 35'er. And once the full Devils Path is linked to Bearpen you could hike non-stop from Roxbury to Hunter.

Comment 7:
Lexington potential addition to Group #4 Trail Town network. The western terminus of the Devil's Path on Rte. 42 with potential expansion to Halcott, Vly and Bearpen Mountains would make a nice looped network.

Response to comment 6 & 7:
Thank you for supporting the proposal to extend the Devils Path trail. We agree that other opportunities may exist to connect to/extend this trail and will seek opportunities to expand upon the trail system by working with partner agencies, local government and community support organizations.

Comment 8:
The Grinch House parcel is a fantastic short hike. Allowing some selective tree removal from the site of the house/overlook would give an incredible view of the town of Roxbury, and encourage more usage. Additionally,the parking area only holds 2-3 vehicles. Adding a pull out or larger parking area would really help Roxbury's growth as a tourism destination.

Comment 9:
Some of the DEP parcels already have great infrastructure, but more could be developed with small walking/nature paths and parking pull-offs. Just by creating some gravel parking pull-offs would increase usage (especially if they were available to 2WD vehicles). Parking on the sides of roads is questionable and people don't always know if its safe/legal

Response to comment 8 & 9:
Thank you for the suggestion. DEP would be willing to consider this with a proposal from a qualified partner and work with other public agencies to facilitate trail projects.

Comment 10:
Connecting Woodchuck Lodge and the Catskill Scenic Trails is also a great idea. Would love to see this also connect to downtown Roxbury/Kirkside Park via the existing railroad track (perhaps a multi-use corridor or trading/purchasing the right of way from DURR).

Response to comment 10:
We agree that connecting places of interest and/or Towns/Villages with existing trail systems such as the Catskill Rail Trail is essential for providing additional opportunities for public recreation. We will work with our partner agencies and other public and private entities to seek opportunities to enhance connectivity.

Comment 11:
Adding additional resources for even sporadic maintenance of some state forests would be great. For instance, Plattekill State Forest is a great location and could be a fantastic area. BUT the parking area is a Mess and only available to 4X4's. The woods road is wildly overgrown and could use even a 2x/year brush hogging. This could be a great area for backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, etc.

Response to comment 11:
Unlike Forest Preserve lands, NYS DEC lands classified as State Forest are actively managed for timber resources and as such are subject to activites requiring the use of heavy equipment on a routine basis. Public use of these lands consists mainly of sportsmen and women who generally require less improved facilities. The Department will seek to improve our facilities and infrastructure to accommodate more diverse public use.

Comment 12:
Backcountry skiing is growing in popularity. The Catskills has lots of space to explore this growing sport on state or DEP land and its hours closer to the NYC area than Vermont or the Dacks. Allowing some zones for selective undergrowth clearing or better winter access, and maps created specifically for backcountry skiers would be great. The proposed hut system could be used in winter by ski tourers as well.

Response to comment 12:
Opportunities for backcountry skiing can be undertaken on many trails throughout the forest preserve. Development of new trails, or glade skiing opportunities could be considered at the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center which was the subject of a constitutional amendment that allows for ski trail development. In other areas of the forest preserve new trails are limited by the forever wild clause of the state constitution, case law and the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan. Specific projects can be considered in unit management plans.

Comment 13:
I would like to suggest that there is a real NEED for a walk/bike path leading from the Margaretville Park (behind Freshtown) to the Rec Center in Arkville. At this point, anyone in M'ville without a car can only access the Rec Center (and eventually the Discovery Center) by walking or biking along an inadequate stretch of Route 28, and then along a kind of dangerous section of Route 38. It is inappropriate for children and a very unpleasant journey.

Response to comment 13:
Thank you for the comment, there is a need for sidewalks on NYS Route 28 and County Highway 38, several entities would be involved including the Transportation Working Group. Currently the Catskill Recreation Center, the Water Discovery Center, the DURR and the NYC DEP are working on a trail system behind the Catskill Recreation Center, the Water Discovery Center that would cross DURR and cross County Highway 38 to DEP property.

Comment 14:
A new trail along the river and at the edge of the farm fields, culminating with a footbridge and path to the Rec Center would be a highly used amenity, and would increase participation at the Rec Center. It would be a plus for both communities.

Response to Comment 14:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 15:
Over the past 10 years I have worked to re-route the original FLT from many town roads to a more wooded route. Since 2010 I have rerouted over 30 miles of the FLT. However one "road walk" that I have not been able to eliminate is the walk on the Denning road from its ending, west to the Neversink-Hardenburg Trail. I have in the past proposed that a new DEC trail be constructed to eliminate this road walk and was told by DEC representatives that this had been contemplated by them in the past . I propose that 2 new trail sections be constructed that would connect the Phoenicia East Branch trail, near the end of Denning Road to 1. the Pine Hill West Branch Trail and 2. from the Pine Hill West Branch Trail west to the Neversink Hardenburg Trail. I can provide maps if requested. The FLTC is willing to provide all manpower to construct these to new trails.

Response to Comment 15:
The Plan supports the long distance trails in the Catskills, including the Finger Lakes Trail. Finding alternative routes to reduce road walks will be considered in unit management plans where routes can be accommodated on public lands. In this specific area, impacts to wilderness values must be evaluated when considering new trail construction.

Comment 16:
I noticed that Bear Spring was not mentioned as being an equestrian trail location. Since there is a extensive horse trail system there, why not turn some of those trails into mountain bike trails. Surely the tire tread erosion can't be any worse that the erosion caused by horse hoof.

Response to comment 16:
Mountain biking is currently allowed on roads and designated and appropriately marked trails. The Department will seek additional mountain biking opportunities at Bear Spring in the future.

Comment 17:
Catskill Mountain Rail Trail (Page 19) We suggest additional trail access to the Ashokan Rail Trail (ART) along the Route 28 corridor with additional parking areas, trailheads, portals, pathways and gateways to the hamlets along the existing ART and proposed Catskill Mountain Rail Trail. Parking is already often at capacity at the trailheads of the ART and further portals could help in the future to alleviate parking congestion.

Response to comment 17:
The current trailheads to the Ashokan Rail Trail were design in coordination with Ulster County to allow sufficient access to the trail while also protecting the resource. All three of the trailheads have been built out to capacity. The Boiceville trailhead will see some capacity increases when the final trailhead is constructed

as part of the Rt. 28A realignment project scheduled for later this year. DEP will not consider additional parking at the Ashokan Rail Trail, but we are open to parking areas on private property nearby or plans to use mass transit, such as UCAT, to get visitors to the trail. Protecting the marginal lands around Ashokan Reservoir is absolutely essential to the protection of water quality.

Comment 18:
Ashokan High Point Loop and Olivebridge Spur (Pages 56 – 58) We suggest a trail spur off the Ashokan Rail Trail along Reservoir Road in Shokan connecting to the Ashokan Promenade. The NYC DEP Ashokan Century program is a $750M plan slated to begin in 2023 that includes replacement of the bridge over the dividing weir on the Ashokan. The plan for this bridge includes a pedestrian /bike lane specifically to connect the existing Ashokan Promenade to the ART. A trail spur from the ART to the Promenade would further enable connectivity to the Ashokan High Point Loop in Olivebridge. This spur would broaden the range of trail uses for a variety of skill levels and create an enlarged trail loop. Furthermore, a connected loop would spread out the access points to all of these trails hopefully alleviating congested parking areas at popular trailheads that exist today.

Response to comment 18:
This concept is currently being explored through infrastructure improvements as part of the Ashokan Century Project. This effort will provide connectivity between recreational facilities within the Ashokan Reservoir complex.

Comment 19:
One very significant oversight is that newly proposed trails have no maintenance plans. Throughout the Catskill Park in 2020 you will find numerous examples of NYSDEC trails and infrastructure in a state of disrepair. Trailhead parking lots are often inadequate in size, often filled with potholes, and often not plowed or sanded in winter. Trailhead signage like other signage throughout the park is often missing, broken or has letters missing. Trailhead register boxes often have the door missing, soaking wet pages in the register, or no writing implements inside. The trail beds themselves are a mess of water, mud, deeply eroded and often many feet wide due to poor design and lack of maintenance. Other infrastructure such as gates, bridges, lean-tos, fire towers and privies are in a state of disrepair. Some bridge deckings have holes in them and hikers fall through. Privies are often over flowing, doors are missing or there are no privies. Port a johns are seen at some trailheads, but often they are not serviced on a regular basis, become full and are not usable. Trailhead kiosks have clouded and broken plexiglass on them with outdated information posted that is from the early 1990's. Unfortunately, these concerns are commonplace throughout the Catskill Park. As the document states, "the existing needs of the park must come first." The document also states "trailheads are a point where visitors first come in contact with a community." There seems to be no funding in place for proper maintenance on already existing trails and infrastructure. Adding new trails without any plans for maintenance will add to this growing and wide spread concern. It also sends a message to visitors that no one cares, littering, deterioration and further destruction of infrastructure in the form of vandalism appear acceptable in the Catskill Park. This is not the message we should be giving visitors.

Comment 20:
In the strategies section of long distance trails in the draft plan, the author notes "as the number of trail users increase on a given trail, the propensity for an increased occurrence of these six behaviors also increased. Strategies suggested by the author to prevent excessive trail widening include sloping terrain adjacent to side-hill trails and regular maintenance that ensures the trail is more inviting to traffic than the trailside terrain, such as addressing muddiness, erosion, excessive rutting, and the presence of exposed roots by avoiding steep grades, avoiding fall line alignments parallel to the landform grade that are difficult to drain and intercept natural water flows, conducting regular maintenance, and using durable treads ("trail hardening ")." If more visitors to the Catskill Park is the goal, more maintenance is necessary.

Comment 21:
Within the draft is a proposal to extend the Devil's Path. This trail is already receiving little maintenance and is poorly designed. A section had to be closed due to safety concerns recently. It makes no sense to extend this trail without first providing repairs and maintenance on the existing sections and having a maintenance plan going forward.

Response to comments 19, 20, and 21:
We recognize the need for trail and infrastructure maintenance. DEC has a limited budget for trail and facility maintenance for state properties, which is supplemented through partnerships with a Volunteer Stewardship Program. Maintenance is an ongoing need that we will consider in the development of new trails and facilities.

Comment 22:
The proposed trail rating system sounds good on the surface, but I wonder what system would be used. Would it be something local to the northeast such as the system currently used by the AMC or the ADK? Are there funds in place to measure and rate all of the trails? Who would fund the upgrades that would be needed to trail signage when current signage is already missing or in poor condition?

Response to comment 22:
Trail ratings are proposed in the Trails section of the Plan, and DEC will consider a system similar to Pennsylvania. DEC will work with other public agencies in hopes of achieving consensus on the rating system and will encourage other trail managers to use the system.

Comment 23:
I do support the new trail and parking lot for Red Hill Fire Tower. The current 6 car parking area is on a seasonal limited use highway, only open in the summer months and grossly inadequate for the number of visitors. This is a good example of NYSDEC and NYCDEP working together to improve the Catskill Park. It does need to have a maintenance plan for the new trail and parking area included.

Response to comment 23:
Thank you for your comment and support of the project

Comment 24:
The spur from Margaretville to the Dry Brook Ridge trail is a great idea

Response to comment 24:
Thank you for your comment and support of the project

Comment 25:
Create trails on DEP land across from the new CWC facility in Arkville to accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, and cross country skiers. These could also be used for equestrian trails

Response to Comment 25:
DEP is currently working with the Catskill Mountain Club and local stakeholders to develop a hiking trail on the Morris Hill recreation unit. However, mountain biking and horseback riding are not uses permitted on DEP watershed lands.

Comment 26:
In 1961 construction of the Long Path began between the George Washington Bridge and the Catskill Park.

Inside the Catskill Park it has been an extremely long process getting the trail off of the roads and into the woods. Even with the massive inventory of protected public land. For a fact it was not until 1987 that a final link was approved and built in Kaaterskill Wild Forest. Still even after that the trail remained with numerous with road walks which passed right by the state land. Nearly 60 years after the Long Path arrived in the Catskills, we still working to get it completely off the roads. The Long Path Actually Stretches 120 miles between Wawarsing in Ulster County and Gilboa in Schoharie County. That would be within the greater Catskill region. The Long Path is around 91 miles long within the blue lines of the Catskill Park. Currently the second and third longest road walks on the entire Long Path occur within the greater Catskill area. Both of these will soon be eliminated. Also, the Long Path is the only long distance trail that traverses the Catskill Park North / South.

Response to comment 26:
The DEC generally supports opportunities to eliminate road walks to enhance the experience of long distance trail users. However, this plan also recognizes the need to connect long distance trails with communities along the route. Some connections are currently not possible without some road walks. As land acquisitions by DEC or other pubic agencies create new opportunities DEC will consider trail relocations to reduce road walks.

Comment 27:
Phoenicia / Mount Tobias Wild Forest – The current trailhead for the Mt Tremper Fire Tower and the Long Path is around 1.5 miles east of Phoenicia. The road that the Long Path has to follow lacks shoulders and is dangerous for pedestrians. Currently there is a loop trail system in Phoenicia called the Tanbark Trail. This trail is in a Town of Shandaken Park. Connecting the Tanbark trail to the Long Path / Phoenicia Trail aligns with this current plan. It would also eliminate the last true road walk on the Long Path within the Catskill Park. Stacked loops are a possibility at this location. Phoenicia is a great trail town and is served by mass transit.

Response to comment 27:
Phoenicia is a great trail town, one that would certainly appear to be a good fit for the Trail Town program described in this plan (Trails Section). With regards to a trail connection between the Tanbark Trail and the Phoenicia Trial on Tremper Mountain, we will include that concept in the final Plan. However, it will be dependent upon the willingness of the private landowner and inclusion in a revision of the Phoenicia-Mt Tobias Wild Forest UMP.

Comment 28:
Indian Head Wilderness Area – A trail from Silver Hollow Notch to the Devils Tombstone Campground and then to the Devils Path at Notch Lake is a great idea. It would give hikers on the Long Path and Devils Path access to the campground without the need to walk the road.

Response to comment 28:
The NYS DEC will continue to seek opportunities to make this trail connection to the Devils Tombstone Campground.

Comment 29:
Kaaterskill Wild Forest – This area of the Long Path follows a long stretch of an eroded old forest road. This old road is not very suitable for a hiking trail. Serious thought should be given to rerouting the Long Path off of this old road. If it is decided to build a trail over Kaaterskill High Peak then we should consider routing the Long Path over it. The Long Path at Malden Turnpike in Palenville crosses private land. There is no direct connection to Palenville from the state land south of route 23A. We have had multiple issues at this area with landowners. Including a closure of the trail a few years back. Recently a new bridge was put over Kaaterskill

Creek on 23A. No provision at all was included for pedestrians needing to get from the parking area on the north side of 23A to the trails on the South side of 23A. The fact remains that if we can't preserve a corridor into Palenville we may need a major reroute of the Long Path through Kaaterskill Clove. A lean-to in this wild forest south of 23A would be a nice addition. The trail access situation needs to be improved for Palenville to be considered a Trail Town.

Response to comment 29:
Thank you for your comments. Specific details regarding potential reroutes and improvements to the Long Path are outside the scope of this plan. Any proposed reroutes and trail improvements such as lean-tos and road crossings of the Long Path at this location will be discussed in future amendments/revisions to the Kaatesrkill Wild Forest Unit Management Plan and will be subject to public review and comment.

Comment 30:
North / South Lake – Windham-Blackhead Range Wilderness Area – Haines Falls and Tannersville are serious contenders for being towns in this area. The connection of the Kaaterskill Rail Trail has really opened up the door for this.

Response to comment 30:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 31:
Elm Ridge Wild Forest – A trail connection between the Elm Ridge Wild Forest and Windham should be investigated. We are currently investigating a Long Path route on DEP land. Currently the Long Path follows Jennie Notch Road a short was before entering the DEP land. Connecting Elm Ridge Forest with the DEP land should be a priority.

Response to comment 31:
The NYSDEC and NYCDEP will seek opportunities to improve trail connections where feasible. Any proposed foot trail connection/improvement on NYCDEP lands will require a partnership with trail sponsor.

Comment 32:
Additional short-distance trail projects in Greene County that community outreach would have identified include – the Hunter Branch Rail Trail (Town and Village of Hunter) and Bonnie's Trails (Lexington), two trail networks that are on NYCDEP land and Land Use Permit applications are in review.

Response to comment 32:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 33:
From the description, the Hunter Area Trail Coalition endorses the Hunter Spur, Tannersville Spur Kaaterskill Trail and the Tombstone Loop short-distance trails, which been have discussed at the coalition meetings. The local municipalities should also be listed as a responsible party, often projects move forward with more momentum with a municipal host.

Response to comment 33:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 34:
Extending the Devil's Path to Rte. 42 and beyond is forwarding thinking, especially with the heavy use the DP gets around Hunter Mountain.

Response to comment 34:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 35:
The Big Valley Trail Blazers, a local state registered snowmobile club, is active in the Lexington/ Prattsville/ Halcott area of Greene County and looking to extend snowmobile trails west. Working with them on extending the Path into those towns could potentially accomplish multiple goals.

Response to comment 35:
We will continue to seek opportunities to enhance the snowmobile trail system where feasible and will work with local organizations to garner input regarding potential trail locations.

Comment 36:
Proposed Trail Crossings, pg. 83 – the Kaaterskill Rail Trail extension phase 3 must cross Route 23A in Haines Falls to link two private properties. This is worth noting even though the Plan focuses on gaps on public lands. The Plan also seeks to support rail trails and this road crossing is a significant part of the Hunter Area Trail network.

Response to comment 36:
This plan acknowledges the significance of rail trails and encourages seeking additional opportunities to enhance public recreation. Creation of trail crossings over public highways require site specific planning with agencies and local governments having jurisdiction over such public highways and is outside the scope of this plan.

Comment 37:
Trail Ratings – should be uniform across all trails, whether public or private sponsored

Response to comment 37:
Trail ratings are proposed in the Trails section of the Plan, and DEC will consider a system similar to Pennsylvania. DEC will work with other public agencies in hopes of achieving consensus on the rating system and will encourage other trail managers to use the system.

Comment 38:
Not sure how many state sponsored snowmobile clubs provided input. Locally the Big Valley Trail Blazers in Lexington are interested in expanding their trails.

Response to comment 38:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 39:
Future opportunities to link city and state land in the South Beech Ridge Road area in Lexington to a new soon to be trail system, Bonnie's Trails (on DEP property)

Response to comment 39
DEP and DEC are willing to investigate proposals that create linkages between agency lands and trail systems.

Comment 40:
Great recommendations in the Town of Hunter to create short trails for greater access between trail heads.

Also pleased to see the Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail in Prattsville is noted with improved access to Pratt Rock. Working through DEP's permit requirements is not always easy, especially with limited resources.

Response to comment 40:
Thank you for your comment

Comment 41:
p. 19 Kaaterskill Rail Trail - "Phase 1 opened in 2013 and it connects the Mountain Top Historical Society in Haines Falls to the Laurel House site. ..." This important section is in severe need of a surface upgrade. This should be a recommendation in this plan.

Response to comment 41:
While the Kaaterskill Rail Trail may benefit from surface upgrades, this is beyond the scope of this plan. The Kaaterskill Rail Trail is mentioned in the Plan to be demonstrative of important regional projects having large-scale public support and that could have potential future recreational connections.

Comment 42:
"Consider revising the NYC DEP application process for trail development support. Provide easy-to-find documentation online that helps potential applicants identify what type of projects have been supported in the past, what type of projects may be supported in the future, the agency's priorities, and what resources must be identified before applying. Responsible Agencies: NYC DEP" - This can help, but also just list the contact information for who/ what division to speak with in the plan. Complementary language in the plan could result from interviews with stakeholders and their associated success stories. There are many case-by-case elements and project anecdotes that just don't come across in an information-only context.

Response to comment 42:
DEP has recently developed a streamlined trail application process and guidance and will work to make it available online as suggested. The guidance provides more detailed information of allowable uses and considerations that should be taken into account as projects are being developed.

Comment 43:
p. 57 "Margaretville Spur Provide a short pedestrian connection paralleling Route 28 from the town center of Margaretville to the Dry Brook Ridge trailhead. This trail spur will make the connection between the Dry Brook Ridge Trail and its offshoots more visible and easier to access for people of all ages and abilities, in turn helping to promote Margaretville as a trail town. Responsible Agencies: NYSDEC, NYDOT" - There has long been a pedestrian connection immediately across Rte. 28 from Bridge St. that brings the pedestrian directly to the Dry Brook Ridge Trailhead. The property that this old road is located on is owned by the village of Margaretville, who should be listed with the responsible agencies. There is or was a trailhead parking sign on Bridge St. for the parking lot across from the supermarket. This connection needs to be re-established. The kiosk that once provided information was lost in a flood, and the new kiosk is up on Main St., so there is a break in the wayfinding information.

Response to comment 43:
Thank you for your comment. We will add Margaretville as a responsible party and will work with the Village to recreate this connection where feasible.

Comment 44:
p. 57 "Phoenicia Spur Improve access to the Long Path from Phoenicia through a short trail spur. This spur would help make Phoenicia a more obvious resting place along the Long Path and improve access from Phoenicia to the Long Path for short day hikes." - his spur would be at least partially on roads. The faded LP

painted markers are still along the streets on the telephone poles. It's possible to send the LP up the Tanbark Trail and connect it with the forest preserve on the ridge up to Mt. Tremper.

Response to comment 44:
With regards to a trail connection between the Tanbark Trail and the Phoenicia Trial on Tremper Mountain, we will include that concept in the final Plan. However, it will be dependent upon the willingness of the private landowner and inclusion in a revision of the Phoenicia-Mt Tobias Wild Forest UMP.

Comment 45:
p. 59 "Pratt Rock Spur Improve access to Pratt Rock tourist attraction and views of the Schoharie Reservoir from Prattsville with a short, well-marked trail spur through Huntersfield Creek. Development of this trail spur will help make Prattsville a more viable trail town option." - Yes, this project is in process. Also, a Recreation Master Plan for the hamlet of Prattsville recommends making the connection between the hamlet and Pratt Rock via a DEP parcel that begins at the end of the sidewalk that heads from the downtown toward Pratt Rock. The parcel was walked by DEP staff and the Catskill Center Regional Planner. Other than a small wet area to be crossed, the DEP was receptive and requested that the town take the lead in developing the trail. This is a short, relatively simple project that is already in one plan and should be inserted in this plan. Current activities to refurbish the Park would coincide well with this project.

Response to comment 45:
DEP is in support of the existing project and proposed linkages to Pratt Rock. The project is identified in the plan as a supported proposal.

Comment 46:
p. 60 "Mount Tobias Trail Construct a new foot trail connecting the Catskills Visitor Center (CVC) to Mount Tobias as proposed in the Phoenicia – Mt. Tobias Wild Forest Unit Management Plan. ..." - The larger project connecting the forest preserve with the CVC is to cross Rte 28 (probably under) and the Esopus, thereby making the connection with the regional continuity of the greater forest preserve. This action was found on p. 79, for road crossings. The significance of this recommendation merits greater attention, whether in this section, the road crossing section, as a separate paragraph, or all of the above. Given its importance and relative magnitude in terms of construction, it should be put forth in this plan with a bit more emphasis, as it will serve future generations in what will be a busier Catskill Region.

Response to comment 46:
While the plan advocates for a safe crossing of State Route 28 at the Catskill Visitor Center, we did not include a crossing of the Esopus Creek. The DEC considered a proposal to relocate the Long Path to cross the Esopus at this location in a draft revision on the Slide Mountain Wilderness UMP. However that proposal was not included in the final plan, and instead a route that traversed Romer Mountain, descending into Phoenicia was chosen. This avoided what would have been a difficult crossing of the Esopus, and allowed for a trail connection with Phoenicia.

Comment 47:
"Tombstone Loop Provide a short trail connection between the available parking at the Notch Inn Road Trail to the Devil's Tombstone Camp-ground along the Devil's Path. This short trail would help create a day hike loop for Devil's Tombstone Campground patrons along the Devil's Path and the Warner Creek section of the Long Path." - This is a good idea. Consider improvements and/ or relocation of the Warner Creek access point. As it stands currently, there is no official trailhead. The wayfinding signs for Rte. 214/ Warner Creek (and Diamond Notch) have been purchased.

Response to comment 47:

The NYS DEC will continue to seek opportunities to make this trail connection to the Devils Tombstone Campground and to look for opportunities for an improved trailhead for the Warner Creek Trail through the Unit Management Planning process.

Comment 48:
p. 67 - "While the region boasts a large number of existing, long-distance trail networks, such as the Long Path, Escarpment Trail, the Finger Lakes Trail, Pine Hill West Branch Trail, and Devil's Path, increased concentration of trail users along these paths could(?) lead to negative environmental impacts. ..." - p. 68 "If through assessment some trailess [trailless?] peaks or other trail segments are determined to receive enough use that formalizing the trails would help reduce long- term environmental impacts, ..." - The discussion should integrate the role of trail maintenance, or lack thereof, on established trails. As suggested elsewhere, there should be a database of trail maintenance for all the trails and segments in the region. One year, for example, the PHWB Trail became so overgrown and unnavigable that a group of volunteers was recruited to restore proper conditions because there was apparently no maintainers assigned, or they were not maintaining. In other scenarios, maintainers are active but reconstruction is needed. While the agencies have a sense of who's doing what, a database would facilitate better comprehension and action across a larger group of active stakeholders.

Response to comment 48:
DEC recognizes the need for trail maintenance and the important role volunteers play. DEC is committed to improving communication with all the volunteer stewardship organizations and will strive to meet annually with VSA holders. Development of a data base of trails and who had maintenance responsibilities is a good suggestion that will be considered.

Comment 49:
p. 73 PROPOSED New Long-Distance Trails "Extend the Devil's Path west, ascending North Dome and Mount Sherill, terminating on Route 214 42..." - This is a proposed action that should integrate "trail towns" concepts, as there is opportunity to connect the hamlet of West Kill with the extended trail system. The DEP's 223-acre Balsam Mountain Unit drops down the northern slopes, both along 42 and to east reaching GC Hwy 6. The town of Lexington should be brought into a conversation regarding this proposal. If a location for a parking area could be in or near the hamlet, it would complement activity and alleviate the topographical challenges of locating a parking lot in the Deep Notch. Although the western terminus of the trail could be located south of the Notch at or near the current Shaft Rd. access, the associated activity would not be anchored in a hamlet. - This is one example of potential connections between forest preserve, watershed lands and hamlet. An analysis of other potential DEP connections for like purposes should be suggested in the plan, as there are many instances, where DEP lands abut forest preserve (or other lands) and can provide key connections.

Response to comment 49:
DEC and DEP have been working together in recent years to make trail connections over adjacent lands and will consider this option in the Westkill Wilderness UMP. DEP and DEC are willing to investigate proposals that create linkages between agency lands and trail systems.

Comment 50:
p.79 Graphic on Kaaterskill Observation Deck – says the elevation loss is 904 feet, which does not seem correct

Response to comment 50:
The graphic depicts the UTAP trail assesment which includes trail length, grade, cross slope, trail width and trail tread surface information. Elevation loss was inaccurate in draft, but it is approximately 110 feet and the

graphic has been updated.

Comment 51:
Four of the listed crossings were identified as "hot spots" and discussed by the Transportation Working Group. • Route 28 near the Visitor Center • Route 23 near the Escarpment Trailhead parking lot • Route 23A through Kaaterskill Clove • Route 214 near the Devil's Path Trailhead The other locations could also be termed hot spots. The crossings are about trail connections and pedestrian safety, but they are also about retaining the look and the feel of the Catskill Park. This is the context in which they were discussed by the TWG. The Auto Access section on p. 125 (especially the first two sentences) are relevant and there could be a reference to that section here. More specifics on the challenges of increased traffic and recreation use (and the efforts to meet these challenges) in and around the Kaaterskill Clove would also be helpful, as this area is and indicator for similar challenges that are and will emerge in other locations.

Response to comment 51:
The Final GCRCRP includes a new paragraph under the "Auto Access" section of the Mobility Chapter describing the work of the Catskill Park Transportation Working Group and the efforts related to the finalizing of NYSDOT Catskill Park Highway Guidelines.

Comment 52:
In several places in the plan there is mention of the recreational experience getting degraded (from the number of users) to the point that the Catskills become an unattractive place. I started hiking in the Catskills in 1994 and have seen the number of hikers grow. My sense is that the Catskills is a fairly small natural area and that it doesn't take much for the trails to feel overcrowded, especially when I find human waste in the middle of the trail. Some trailheads I no longer go to on the weekends.

Response to comment 52:
The plan call for the implementation of a "Leave No Trace" in the Messaging Section of the Plan. In addition, the Plan builds upon the role the Catskills Visitor Center plays in educating visitors on backcountry ethics. The Plan also recommends the development of "Short Distance Trails" that would provide alternatives to popular destinations.

Comment 53:
The transitions from one section to another are hard to follow

Response to comment 53:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 54:
Could not find Table 8 referenced on page 45?

Response to comment 54:
The table has been removed and the text has been modified to reflect the removal. Thank you.

Comment 55:
With this purpose in mind and the amount of land NYCDEP owns, there seems to be a disconnect with the overall purpose and aligning the two largest public landholders. Planning on this scale one would expect recommendations to be integrated and compatible regardless of the property owner. This perhaps was a lost opportunity to get a better sense of the important role NYCDEP lands play currently as well as in the future in meeting the growing need of outdoor recreationists coming the CP and how best to integrate city land with state and local municipal land.

Response to comment 55:
The plan seeks to identify recreational opportunities throughout the Park, focusing a public land opportunities. It also recognizes that each land managing agency has unique constitutional, legislative and policy constraints that must be considered in any new recreation proposals. This primary goal of this plan was to identify projects that could be implemented under existing management constraints. There are several examples of projects that include both forest preserve and NYC watershed lands in the Park.

Comment 56:
If there is funding left over from what was allocated to this project, it should go toward hiring a consultant familiar with the Catskill Park, its planning and outdoor needs as articulated in this and other documents. That would help turn this Plan into a functional road map, if you will, prioritizing actions for implementation and integrating more effectively the NYCDEP's lands

Response to comment 56:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 57:
The plan has many positive attributes. These include "big-picture" concepts and models, many of which are expressed through examples from other places. This aspect of the plan is illustrative, informative, and even motivational to a degree, as it shows us successes in other areas. The plan's outside-looking-in approach provides us with valuable perspectives that we wouldn't necessarily consider. The nine goal areas provide an overarching framework and basic program within which specifics can be developed and guided. The regional survey and analyses help influence the plan.

Response to comment 57:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 58:
As stated, "The Plan serves as a reference document..." This is accurate, as the document is lacking in several important areas. The most notable of these is implementation.

Comment 59:
The plan recognizes that "Implementation of recommendations contained in the Plan will require further discussion, public engagement, approval, design, and allocated funding." yet it can and should go much further in putting these components into motion to position the region for success. For example, the inclusion of an implementation chart (a typical tool of an effective plan) with priority ranking of recommendations (short-,medium-, long-term, and ongoing); responsible parties, estimated costs, funding possibilities, and other pertinent and helpful information would be very helpful. Largely missing is the connective tissue between the broad-brushed goals and the somewhat scattered recommendations. Mostly absent is the logical progression that flows along the path of purpose/vision > stakeholder input/ buy-in > and step-by-step objectives that articulate specific action items and gather regional players around these actions. Nor is there a mechanism to coordinate implementation. Consider that: the well-crafted and organized Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan (1999) called for a regional coordinator; this recommendation was never realized; and several of the major recommendations of the plan sat idle until a coordinator undertook implementation, e.g. Helen Budrock of the Catskill Center coordinated the restoration of the five fire towers in the Catskill Park. Given this history and the lightly prescriptive nature of the current draft plan, the prospects for implementation need a boost.

Comment 60:
The plan is woefully underdeveloped in the area of partnerships and stakeholders.

Comment 61:
In any observation of the Catskills, it is immediately apparent that things get accomplished -- in addition to work by the agencies -- by the work of cooperative partnerships that include numerous local and regional organizations – their staff, members, and volunteers. The plan is very weak in its inclusion and explanation of these invaluable partners. Where's the Catskill Mountain Club? (only one mention in the appendix/ somebody's comment) The NY-NJ Trail Conference is mentioned for certain purposes but absent is a general explanation of their roles in the region, e.g. significant amounts of trail maintenance. The list goes on, but the point is that if we want to position the region for success, we must recognize the valuable and indefatigable efforts of all key partners who helped bring us to where we are today. And further, if the participation and contributions of these partners in the development this regional recreation plan are not recognized and integrated, this omission can counteract buy-in, implementation, and a more wholly collective outlook for the future of the Catskills. While the plan mentions interviews with key people, it is not apparent what the results of these interactions were or if they've influenced the plan. The key people interviewed and all the individuals and organizations who contributed to the plan should be listed in an appendix. This helps develop communication networks. Personal experience is a relevant measure: as a stakeholder identified to contribute to the plan, the expected interview never occurred. Other communications to the consultants went without reply. Fortunately, via a staff member of one of the partnership agencies, some inquiries were answered which contributed to the accuracy and depth of information in the plan. Overall, the "plan" comes across largely as something that has been presented to the region, rather than something that evolved and emerged from it. This can still be remedied, to a degree, but grassroots accomplishments need more recognition and stakeholders also need to be rallied going forward.

Comment 62:
The connections between what was expressed at the public meetings and the plan's recommendations are only partially realized. The discussions (and the emerging results) that were held presumably to shape the components of the plan have largely been pushed ahead until after its adoption. The structure and method of implementation are yet to be realized, instead of being outlined in the plan. This can have the effect of deflating the motivation of the participants, whose contributions have been largely relegated to lists in an appendix. As suggested in the specific comments below, there is still opportunity to bolster and even integrate workshop results into the plan. These adjustments could be combined with the introduction of an implementation program after the plan's adoption. For an example of a robust engagement of stakeholders – that is also thoroughly expressed as a necessary component of the plan – see the Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan.

Reponse to Comments 58, 59, 60, 61 & 62:
The plan is intended to identify concepts that can then be implemented by the appropriate land manager or public agency. Many of the projects in the plan will require partnerships and creative solutions. We agree that implementation is a key to success. However, developing an implementation strategy is beyond the scope of this plan.

Comment 63
Integration of NYCDEP lands into future recommendations is lacking. The expansion of recreational uses on Cat-Del Watershed lands is a major development that occurred over many years through multiple efforts. With the acquisition of lands acquired by NYC sometimes being controversial, the opening of these lands for recreation helps counterbalance these concerns and creates opportunities with economic benefit. Also noteworthy are the partnership success stories that have enhanced recreation on the Watershed lands, e.g. Shavertown Trail, Bramley Mountain Trail (and proposed fire tower restoration project). Not only does the plan not celebrate this momentum, but it's lacking in recommendations that would continue such patterns to influence a more sustainable future for regional recreation. This flaw should be remedied -- to any extent -- before the plan is finalized.

Response to comment 63:
The plan seeks to identify recreational opportunities throughout the Park, focusing a public land opportunities. It also recognizes that each land managing agency has unique constitutional, legislative and policy constraints that must be considered in any new recreation proposals. This primary goal of this plan was to identify projects that could be implemented under existing management constraints. There are several examples of projects that include both forest preserve and NYC watershed lands in the Park.

Comment 64:
Appendix A – inclusive and exhaustive, but too sprawling, could be condensed and a summary(ies) of some parts would be helpful, e.g. how necessary are pages and pages of zip codes?

Response to comment 64:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 65:
Appendix C – Great stuff... but it just sits in an Appendix; this is one of the major flaws of the plan. A very interesting and informative summary of the feedback can and should be developed to bring some life and direction to it, as it's not really reflected in the plan. The summaries beginning on p. 254 at least begin to structure the information, but further development of the material should shape the plan more. Some of the suggestions are not easily accomplished or feasible. Others don't capture the gist of what was expressed. For example, the first policy from the June 11 Andes event reads: "Increase public access to more land that is not directly related to water supply" The discussion was really about the great expanse and number of DEP units away from the reservoirs that presently are open to the public but do not provide facilities for basic access, such as parking. While it's understood that trails could be developed through cooperative arrangements with DEP, there was specific discussion on how there's no roadside shoulders for many units. This raises points about coordination with local highway departments as well as physical improvements for simple access. And much related, the plan lacks programmatic elements to help envision a future and implement projects that provide greater access to DEP lands. Since the majority of DEP lands are open for access there is an opportunity to carry out the "dispersion" concept of the plan, so long, of course, that the watershed protection interests are met. This opportunity is missed in the plan.

Response to comment 65:
The Plan is intended to improve public access to, and recreational opportunities on public land, including NYC DEP watershed lands. It identifies specific opportunities that were suggested by stakeholders, but is not intended to be inclusive of all opportunities. We welcome future ideas for improved access to these lands consistent with the Plan and DEP's management. DEP - While unable to undertake the construction of parking facilities in most instances, DEP is willing to work with qualified partner organizations, agencies or towns to develop low-impact parking in high use areas where needed.

Comment 66:
The plan does not really reflect a baseline purpose grounded in the place. For the simplest explanation of this point, see the Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan (1999). The document is replete with purposeful and even inspirational language that puts the whole project in perspective. One of the most succinct and on- point statements is found in the plan's introductory letter from the commissioner: "The Plan is premised on the idea that the magnificent natural resources of the Catskill Forest Preserve area a crucial ingredient in efforts to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of the region in the 21st century." This captures the essence of the preceding plan, which is very much anchored in the appreciation of place -- itself expressive of the foresight of those who established the Forest Preserve and the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Although not exclusively focused on the Park, the draft plan would do well to develop more awareness of this collective heritage. Likewise, the stories behind the watershed merit at least brief attention. For it is these region-defining resources

that give us a foundation and purpose for planning -- and therefore reinforce our collective cooperation to do something about it, now and in the future.

Response to comment 66:
The GCRCRP was written to build off of existing documents and plans and should not be seen as superseding or replacing any prior recommendations. Many plans and documents already speak to the rich environmental and cultural heritage of our region and the focus of this plan is to bring a set of recommendations forward that agencies and organizations can use to improve recreation in the Catskills region.

Comment 67
The Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan should remain an active document, not be replaced by this newer recreation plan. The two documents can work together. A dedicated link to the Access Plan can be referenced in the recreation plan; the Access Plan could also be incorporated as an appendix.

Response to comment 67:
The GCRCRP was written to build off of existing documents and plans and should not be seen as superseding or replacing any of those plans.

Comment 68:
At this time Greene County does not have any particular concerns with the draft Greater Catskill Region Comprehensive Recreation Plan acting as a reference document that can help guide future recreational projects and programming in the Catskill Park. However in light of the current public health crisis, we suggest keeping the comment period open for the time being as those interested in providing comment might be otherwise occupied and distracted at this time. This public health crisis could also potentially affect the nature and substance of comments on this draft and changes that may result due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Response to comment 68:
While we appreciate the concern, the public comment period on the Draft GCRCRP was extended from 30 to 60 days.

Comment 69:
Greene County is generally supportive of the nine goal areas as outlined in the draft Plan. The County likes and is generally supportive of the development of a local trail town program with trail town kiosks as well as the hut to hut program. While the draft Plan points out that the explosion in short-term rentals has resulted in extra income for local property owners and helped fill gaps in the accommodation industry, the Plan should also recognize that municipalities are grappling with how best to regulate short term rentals to keep housing safe and affordable as well as maintain the desired community character.

Response to comment 69:
The regulation and management of short-term rentals within the study area is beyond the scope of the GCRCRP and is best left to the State, Counties and Municipalities to regulate.

Comment 70:
As has been previously mentioned this draft document is very difficult to download and navigate due it size and graphics. It is suggested that the maps be moved into a separate reference document and perhaps some of the large full-page photographs be removed so as to make the document more readable and navigable in an on-line format.

Response to comment 70:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 71:
A couple of small questions. The plan states the population of the four country Catskill region as 350,000. I realize that the Park doesn't follow country boundaries. Years ago I believe the Catskill Center would cite the Park population as around 50,000. So does the higher number actually represent the full population of the four countries or the number of people within the Park and DEP delineated watershed?

Response to comment 71:
350,000 is the population of the 4 counties in the Study Area.

Comment 72:
Purpose p. 3 ¶ 1 The first paragraph does not state the purpose, and it should. "This abundance of resources helps to create a healthy place to live, and work, and play (or and recreate) and the region's..."

Response to comment 72:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 73:
Purpose p. 3 ¶ 2 "The Greater Catskill Region Comprehensive Plan (Plan) is a collaborative effort by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), Catskill Center, and the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC)." Stakeholders and the public should be included here.

Response to comment 73:
The paragraph referred to on Page 3 references the group of agencies and organizations involved in managing the development of the GCRCRP. The next paragraph in the adjacent column references the use of feedback from stakeholders and the public.

Comment 74:
p. 7 Plan Area ¶1, first sentence Should be capital "W" as it is in last sentence of paragraph.

Response to comment 74:
Thank you for your comment it has been reflected in the plan.

Comment 75:
p. 7 ¶ 2 State lands Percentages of the areal extent of these classifications would be helpful.

Response to comment 75:
Plan will be modified to include the percentage of forest preserve lands in each classification as follows: Wilderness - 50%; Wild Forest - 48%; Intensive Use - 2%.

Comment 76:
p. 7 ¶ 6 "area" should be "areas"

Response to comment 76:
Thank you for your comment it has been reflected in the plan.

Comment 77:
p. 7 ¶ 8 "... however, NYSDEC's mission also includes the enhancement of the health, safety, social wellbeing, and economic welfare of New Yorkers." True, but this pedestrian language falls short and is buried in

the plan. For greater effectiveness and inspiration, again see the language of the CFPPAP which is befitting of the region's- defining characteristics and makes clearer connections with peoples' appreciation of these qualities.

Response to comment 77:
The GCRCRP was written to build off of existing documents and plans and should not be seen as superseding or replacing any prior recommendations. Many plans and documents already speak to the rich environmental and cultural heritage of our region and the focus of this plan is to bring a set of recommendations forward that agencies and organizations can use to improve recreation in the Catskills region.

Comment 78:
p. 8 ¶ 1 NY City Watershed Lands - Percentages of each classification would be helpful. This paragraph also presents an initial opportunity to at least mention some of the resources on these lands, such as examples of trails that have been developed in partnership with local communities, groups, and organizations.

Response to comment 78:
More information regarding NY City watershed lands would have improved the plan. The plan includes proposals for the development of trails on watershed lands.

Comment 79:
p. 9 ¶ 1 and Table 1. What is the correlation between the population (total and density) and the region being at risk of falling behind? This paragraph states a risk to the region, but it is not convincing why this is a risk, let alone the development of solutions to take corrective action. Perhaps more useful comparisons would center upon the extent of public land and number recreational amenities available. And population density is partially a function of the geographic extent of public, undevelopable land. Some type of public-land-per-capita ratio could be an illustrative relationship to contribute here. The number of visitors to these regions -- as can be best correlated with recreation -- will be useful to include. Benchmarking that only includes comparison of facts – without more discussion, elaboration, informed projection, etc. – misses opportunities to identify trends that can be used to create better informed recommendations for the future of the place. See, for example. Zweig, Brian "Economic Valuation Study for Public Lands in the Central Catskills" for examples of data and correlation. Another productive inclusion at the outset of this section would be and explanation of what benchmarking is and how can it be used to benefit the region. Because, even if the plan doesn't develop this relationship, at least it can steer readers in the right direction. The entry into the topic is abrupt and would benefit from some background.

Response to comment 79:
The resources available for this planning effort prevented us from developing a more thorough discussion of the benchmarking concept.

Comment 80:
P. 9 ¶ 2,3,4 and respective tables on following page. These stats seem to exist isolation (and therefore, relevance), unless they are better tied into this plan. The specific numerical comparisons appear to be negligible. The discussions and data on the following pages (11-13) are somewhat helpful. The recommendations cited in other plans is illustrative, but ends abruptly, without discussion tying more of the specifics to the Catskills.

Response to comment 80:
The resources available for this planning effort prevented us from developing a more thorough discussion of the statistics provided.

Comment 81:
p. 15 Document Review - The omission of the public review and comment component in the UMP process is glaring; please include it. This one-sentence summary of the CFFPAP does not accurately relay the essence of the plan. The key characteristics of that plan deserve to be recognized and reviewed more thoroughly. As stated above, there are many instances where the CFPPAP conveys key points. See also the introductory vision section, with its goals that emphasize an asset-based, experiential, appreciative foundation of the resources and sense of place in the Park, as well as the grassroots, partnership-driven development of the plan. This well-rendered content is critical to regional planning in the Catskills.

Response to comment 81:
The GCRCRP was written to build off of existing documents and plans and should not be seen as superseding or replacing any prior recommendations or plans- This plan is intended to compliment the Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan, not replace it. We agree with the introductory visionary statement continues to be critical to the future of the Park.
The Unit Management Planning process for forest preserve lands in the Catskill Park is provided, in detail, in the August, 2008 edition of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (CPSLMP), beginning on page 56. Those interested can access the CPSLMP on DEC's website at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43013.html .

Comment 82:
p. 22 ¶3 - Interviews Second sentence: "Additional interviews of residents, public officials, city and county staff, recreation- based not-for-profit staff, and other outdoor recreational providers were conducted throughout the life of the project." A summary of this component is not included in this plan. It leaves unanswered questions such as who was actually interviewed and what were the outcomes of such interviews. More context, information, and connectivity between this component and the development of this plan would be helpful. Even just common themes of the interviews – something, anything.

Response to comment 82:
A summary of the public meetings and interviews is included in the appendix.

Comment 83:
p. 22 ¶ 2 Public Workshops - The categorization of the comments in App. C under the headings developed for this plan are helpful, but more description that connects the comments with the development of the plan would be even better.

Response to comment 83:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 84:
p. 23 Footnote: "NYC DEP's primary role of protecting the New York City water supply places limitations on the agencies agency's ability to expand recreational opportunities." - The text to which the citation for this footnote corresponds bears little to no relevance with the statement. And while the footnote note statement is true, it exists in isolation and comes across as dead end. It even seems contrary to the purposes of a recreation plan. Yes, there are limitations as stated, but there are also numerous opportunities and examples of successful partnerships that have brought recreational facilities to watershed lands. These have assisted with the dispersion principle of the plan. And encouraging the continuation of recreation opportunities on city land that also protect the water supply should be in the plan, since this is the case in the real world. Such opportunities go hand-in-hand with stewardship and education. By opening new recreational opportunities on city-owned land – consistent with best practices, etc – stewardship, education, appreciation, and conservation of the resource can be reinforced. This is key to the balance.

Response to comment 84:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 85:
p. 24 Goal 4: Coordination - "Continue to emphasize the need for regional coordination in planning and data sharing by building on existing efforts from the Catskill Visitor Center to serve as a centralized resource for information on recreation facilities, tourism-related events, and outdoor education and safety information." - Okay, but what's also needed is regional coordination in implementation. And yes, the CVC can serve as a central resource, but this plan should really be outlining the need for information at other gateway locations, if we are to encourage dispersion in the coming years. More regional vision, as well as drawing connections between user (and traffic) data and location -- and the regional patterns expressed -- is expected for the geographic scale that this plan covers.

Response to comment 85:
Multiple avenues towards the implementation of Goal 4 are included in this plan, including in the creation of kiosks, information centers and satellite visitor center locations.

Comment 86:
Goal 5: Branding Develop a recognizable brand for the region - "Reinforce the region's unique identity by building upon the Catskill Visitor Center's identifiable brand and developing a standard system for wayfinding and gateways." - Research into this topic would've quickly yielded a history of branding in the Catskills that never quite congealed. From this history, more informed strategies going forward could have emerged. Plus, "developing a standard system for wayfinding and gateways" misses the obvious institution of the Catskill Park logo that is found on all the wayfinding signs. The language here can benefit from "continuing" instead of "developing".

Response to comment 86:
The GCRCRP recognizes and documents the many efforts across the region in regional branding and identify. The plan calls for the create of a unified theme and while we agree that the current wayfinding signage has helped create an identity, that does not currently carry over into gateway signage, nor signage at the destinations.

Comment 87:
p.31 Strategies - Partnerships – Recruit a core team of dedicated volunteers, including trail or recreation groups, business owners, town officials, county officials, tourism agencies, and chambers of commerce." - This is one of the most important statements in the whole plan, although it's imported. This plan needs more of this kind of language that takes the general goals and begins to shape them into achievable steps toward actualization.

Response to comment 87:
Thank you for your comment, it is included throughout the plan.

Comment 88:
p. 33 Map2 - The map is abstract, although the statements on p. 36 support its interpretation, somewhat. An introduction to help explain the map up front would be helpful because after the map, the Develop Trail Town Program jumps right into the steps. Here's the kind of information the reader is wondering about: is there a hierarchy for making actual connections, e.g. first over public land, then maybe easements over private land, and/ or roadway segments. Having an introduction and a framework, and including the potential criteria on p. 36 earlier in the section, will support the flow of the document and therefore improve the understanding of the concept and its application.

Response to comment 88:
Thank you for your comment it has bee addressed in the plan.

Comment 89:
p. 35 Important note: this is the first appearance of these icons in the blue bars. The icons are derived from the nine goals but the plan just starts incorporating them here and continues, without explanation. This is confusing. Once the reader figures this out, it works fine, but the plan should have a statement here.

Response to comment 89:
Thank you for your comment it has bee addressed in the plan.

Comment 90:
p. 38 - "The chart above (n=773) shows the devices, if any, that the Plan's survey respondents use to navigate through the region." - It's good to see the survey results being used in the plan. Can "(n-773)" be explained for the average reader?

Response to comment 90:
Thank you for your comment it has bee addressed in the plan.

Comment 91:
p. 39 - The map at bottom is difficult to view, as is the text around it. With no caption, it is difficult to understand its role in illustrating the discussion. Providing a link to view the map could help.

Response to comment 91:
Maps have been updated in the final GCRCRP.

Comment 92:
p. 49 - Good, but the borrowed recommendations could be complemented with at least some recommendations and locations that are specific to the Catskills. For example, where are the locations that DEP lands connect forest preserve lands with a hamlet, a parking area, etc.

Response to comment 92:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 93:
p. 50-52 These are also helpful examples, but this imported information takes up much of the body of the plan rather than being separated in a precedent section or appendix and being used to advance the connections of the trails in the Catskills. The maps on 53-54 are part of this equation, but one expects more integration between the prototypes and the Catskill locations. The maps are also very difficult to read in the pdf; it is understood that they will be upgraded going forward, but the resolution in the draft plan does not serve a proper review of the document.

Response to comment 93:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 94:
p. 55 Public Health - "Develop relationship with local and regional public health partners, including medical services and county-level health departments. Share data on access to exercise opportunities, track health-re-

lated performance measures, collaborate on materials promoting the benefits of active lifestyles, and pursue mutually beneficial project funding. Responsible Agencies: All agencies" - Like other parts in the plan, this statement seems to be floating and disconnected. These relationships are being developed and are developed. For example, Delaware County has a Complete Streets group that meets regularly, consists of representatives from O'Connor Hospital, SUNY Delhi, County Health, County Highway, County Planning Local Officials, Catskill Mountain Club, and others. The group has received funding from NYS Dept. of Health, implemented numerous projects, and engages in the activities in the statement from the draft plan, to a great degree. A better plan will summarize these activities and build upon them instead of suggesting to start from a point that's in the past.

Response to comment 94:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 95:
pp. 56-60 - This is the kind of helpful information and recommendations that should occupy the plan. If it corresponds with the map on the preceding pages, this is not obvious because the plan doesn't say this and the map is difficult to read.

Response to comment 95:
Thank you for the comment, please be advised the maps are being replaced in the final version

Comment 96:
The Table on page 30 has gaps in the "gap analysis," presumably from lack of community input from Greene County e.g., Tannersville and Windham show limited access to Medical Services, when both have Ambulance Service and/or doctor offices; Prattsville has a grocery story, Hunter does not. Why is Windham marked as having limited trail access? Lexington is missing from the Greene County towns, has good trail access, a very busy brewery in the Catskills (West Kill Brewery), limited lodging

Response to comment 96:
The scope for medial access used was hospitals or urgent care facilities, while both doctors offices and Ambulance services are extremley important to the area they were not in consideration for mediacal access. Objectivity of this chart was and is extremely difficult, and as businesses open and close, it is everchanging. This chart provides a snapshot of what was currently there at the time it was developed, and the rating system leaves a lot to be desired. More importantly, this chart shows communities in the region that they have some of the tools needed to be a Trail Town, in the hopes that they buy into the Trail Town concept. Towns that are interested in this concept should work with community leaders to create the guidelines to become a Trail Town, so that those communities can work toward that goal.

Comment 97:
If the short-term rental market is included as lodging most municipalities would be changed to "good access."

Response to comment 97:
While the comment is correct, the accessibility and availability of short-term rentals is signficantly different than hotels, motels, hostels, and bed & breakfasts, therefore they were not considered when making judgements about current lodging facilities in municipalities.

Comment 98:
P.29: This term/ section title needs explanation at the outset. A link and brief description is not included until after the chart, and it still does not provide a satisfactory summary, which then could include more

relevance to the Catskills. Here's an example: "A Trail Town is a destination along a long-distance trail or adjacent to an extensive trail system. Whether the trail is a hiking trail, water trail or rail trail, users can venture from the path to explore the unique scenery, commerce and heritage that each trail town has to offer." https://kentucky-bcdn.azureedge.net/media/35764/trail-town-guide-overview.pdf

Response to comment 98:
Thank you for you comment.

Comment 99:
GAPS "Lengthening a visitors' visitor's trip has been..." - This section, as well as others, begins with this term GAPS. A more positive approach to consider is to begin each of these sections with the strong points of these resources, then lead into the gaps... and "strategies" which is included in some of the subsequent headings.

Response to comment 99:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 100:
p. 30 Trail Towns Chart - Better explanation of the categories is needed. What constitutes the three levels of trail access? For example, Andes is listed as Good Access, whereas Delhi is Limited Access. Using the presumed hamlet (not townwide) locations, Delhi has trails accessible from the hamlet; namely the Federal Hill system (and the Smith Park- O'Connor piece). Andes has the Rail Trail which is compatible to the Delhi Trails. Why the opposite categories in these two? And to what extent is the proximity of extensive trail networks factored in? And what are the distances that may factor in? For example, Andes has the Palmer Hill Trail and Delhi has the SUNY Delhi Outdoor Recreation Park, each located within walking distance of the hamlet, yet only via the edge of state highways. Still further afield from the hamlets, Andes has the Shavertown Trail and Delhi has the Bramley Mountain Trail. Is driving to locations included?

Response to comment 100:
"This chart provides a snapshot of what was currently there at the time it was developed, and the rating system is very subjective with no clear definition of the level of access. More importantly, this chart shows communities in the region that they have some of the tools needed to be a Trail Town, in the hopes that if they have an interest in the Trail Town program, they can better understand what is needed in their community. Towns that are interested in this concept should work with community leaders to create the guidelines to become a Trail Town, so that those communities can work toward that goal. We hope that this table will be useful in identifying the opportunities for improvement of communities that may be interested in the Trail Town program.
"

Comment 101:
p.36 - "Although most trail town programs are based around a single long-distance trail, development of a trail town program specific to the Greater Catskill Region would out of necessity be built around a modified "base camp" model, with sets of near-by towns grouped together into small networks." - Well, there are longer sets of connecting trails that traverse the region that are mentioned later in the plan.

Response to comment 101:
The vast majority of towns discussed in the GCRCRP do not have long-distance trails traversing the community. There are however at least two communities with a long-distance trail traversing through the town. As a matter of necessity the traditional model of a trail town would need to be modified in the majority of cases in the Catskills region.

Comment 102:

p. 36 "These communities provide a gateway to the western Catskills." - An important statement like this shouldn't be tucked deep in a section of this plan, as it is a major characteristic that calls for more attention. The region is getting busier; a plan at this geographic scale needs at least some long-term projections and specific actions to guide the influx and flow of visitors. While it is primarily a recreation plan, transportation is intrinsically linked with longer term visioning scenarios.

Response to comment 102:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 103:
As noted in the draft plan, tourism is a vital part of the Catskills economy. There are however, many user groups in addition to hikers and bikers who are mentioned in this document. I was surprised at the lack of inclusion or minimal inclusion of some user groups such as birders, photographers, hunters, snowmobilers, astronomers, boaters and others. These audiences should be encouraged to come to the Catskills and more effort should be made to include them.

Response to comment 103:
While the planners attempted to reach out to a diversity of user groups. Unfortunately they were more successful with some than others. We will strive to include more user groups as we implement the plan.

Comment 104:
As you are aware tourism is an integral part of the Greene County economy. We did notice that some of the Greene County previously completed tourism related planning work was not referenced in this draft, including the June 2014 Greene County, New York Tourism Trails Plan. the 2017 Greene County Second Home Owner Study as well as the 'Greene County Tourism Economic Impact Analysis & Strategic Goals'.

Response to comment 104:
The plan recognizes the importance of the tourism to all the counties in the greater Catskill region. The consultant firm hired to undertake this planning effort was asked to review a number of documents that would help inform the plan, unfortunately it does not appear that they reviewed these plans.

Comment 105:
As you know by now, this is perhaps the most critical element of the plan and process. I cannot emphasize enough how poor the public outreach was in Greene County. As someone versed in planning and execution of public outdoor recreation projects in Greene County, the outreach with this office was practically nonexistent. A memo was sent to the steering committee on November 9, 2018 regarding this. Although the goals are presumed to be from public feedback, they are still noteworthy and desirable.

Response to 105:
"Here is the outreach Information: Appendix A provided the Survey Results of 793 respondents, to the survey that Alta Planning provided. Outreach meeting notes can be found in Appendix C. Alta Planning and Design Inc., preformed the following public outreach meetings: 12/12/2017

Arkville
Monticello

12/13/17

Kingston
Delhi

06/11/2018

Andes
Mt. Tremper

06/12/18
Cairo
Livingston Manor
11/1/18
Liberty
11/7/18
Catskill
Tannersville
“

Comment 106:
For the physical and programmatic recommendations contained in the draft to be successfully implemented it is crucial to continue to include and engage the affected municipalities, public agencies and other interested parties. Public outreach and public engagement will also be crucial to the success of program and project implementation.

Response to comment 106:
We are in agreement, thank you for your comment.

Comment 107:
Goal 4 – Coordination – establishing satellite visitor centers has been discussed in different venues, e.g., a long term vision is to have a staffed Visitor Center in the Town of Hunter, the gateway to the northern entrance to the Catskill Park. The Mountain Top Historical Society's VC serves that function now for the busy northern gateway entrance to the Park, but is limited by volunteer coverage. Acknowledge staffed satellite visitor centers at key areas in the Park is a long-term objective.

Response to comment 107:
Thank you for your comment. Goal 4 seeks to boost coordination and information sharing between the Catskills Visitor Center and any other facilities providing visitor information. As stated elsewhere in the plan, the goal of creating satellite visitor centers, utilzing the CVC as a centralized resource is important for the Catskills region. It is our expectation that the needs of each location will be unique and specific to that location and that realizing opportunities and overcoming challenges at each of these locations will require extensive coordination between the multiple stakeholders.

Comment 108:
More kayaking and canoeing on reservoirs, as well as sailing and rowing

Response to comment 108:
DEP is committed to promoting and improving the recreational boating program with partners and businesses on Reservoirs where possible. The current program was established on non-terminal reservoirs, which precludes expansion to both the Ashokan and Rondout reservoirs. DEP recently expanded the season to begin on May 1st and continue through October 31st (approximately 1.5 month longer). While sailing is prohibited, scull boats typically used for rowing are allowed.

Comment 109:
There is a huge gap in biking opportunities. Less proficient mountain bikers and road bikers have difficulty finding trails and parking access. Many roads through town are narrow with no shoulder and sharp curves. Bike pathways and routes need to be created and enhanced.

Response to comment 109:

DEC has developed several mountain biking opportunities for a range of abilities in Wild Forest areas, including the Elm Ridge Wild Forest and Bluestone Wild Forest. The recently completed Sundown Wild Forest includes a mountain bike trail system to connect and compliment the current trails at the adjoining Lipman Town Park. The plan makes recommendations to improve road biking opportunities in the Park (see Mobility Section, On Road Bicycling). In addition, efforts are underway to complete a Catskill Park Highway Guidelines that will include improvements to highways for road bicycling.

Comment 110:
I suggest that road bike riding could be discussed more, with the creation of named and difficulty ratings for routes – like the Pepacton East Loop which is easy, not much traffic, not hilly, Pepacton West Loop – not much traffic but some significant hills. Also highlight places suitable for cross country skiing with similar ratings

Response to comment 110:
We appreciate your comment, but this level of detail is beyond the scope of the GCRCRP. Issues such as this could be discussed at the Catskill Park Transportation Working Group.

Comment 111:
I think your idea for mountain bike trails on DEP property that is also used for hunting is a bad idea. It's bad enough there is now a rail trail that goes thru some of the hunting land. I believe adding mountain bike trails will lead to lots of trash being left in the woods and the potential for severe accidents.

Response to comment 111:
DEP property does not currently permit mountain biking. Biking is only permitted in select locations where a decommissioned road or railroad bed exists. These projects are individually reviewed and permitted before biking is allowed.

Comment 112:
We appreciate your inclusion of the Route 28A bike lane into the plan as the Town of Olive has been advocating to the DEP for a bike pathway along this road for years. The NYS Route 28 pedestrian road crossings in the plan at the Ashokan Rail Trail were of special interest to us as well for access to local businesses and the Onteora High School in Boiceville. Additional highway crossings may be needed in the future as public usage of the ART increases. Recreation with public safety in mind is of great importance to us especially as our recreational resources become more popular.

Response to comment 112:
Thank you for the comment, we will continue to pursue these ideas.

Comment 113;
Put in bicycle lane along the triangle from Margaretville to Arkville, north along Rte 38 , and then back to Margaretville on Rte 30. This bike lane would be used by runners, walkers, and bikers and would link Margaretville to Arkville, to the Watershed Exhibit, to the scenic railroad, and the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development

Response to comment 113:
We will seek to work with agency and local government partners to continue discussion of the creation of the Arkville Recreation Hub which includes potential facilities to enhance public recreational connections between Arkville, Margaretville and the new NYC DEP/Catskill Watershed Corp/Catskill Water Discovery Center complex on Delaware County Route 38.

Comment 114:

Mountain Biking Trails UCI was hosted in Windham but not on an annual basis. I believe the UCI is a premier international mountain biking sport with some 35+ countries represented in Windham when the town hosted it. This was very significant for the county and region.
Response to comment 115:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 115:
On Road Bicycling – Working with NYSDOT on potential bicycle routes listed on pg. 137 seems lost for such an important recommendation. Highlight this with reference to the CP Transportation Working Group as responsible party. Include State Rte. 23A from Kaaterskill Clove to points west (Routes 214 and 42 railheads, Spruceton Valley).

Response to comment 115:
Thank you for your comment. While the The GCRCRP recognizes the need to improve coordination with NYSDOT, the Catskill Park Transportation Working Group (TWG) should be the entity to lead this effort. As the TWG, nor the NYSDOT a member of the steering committee that developed the GCRCRP, the plan, as it does elsewhere with other responsible parties not sitting on the steering committee, states what responsibly party would need to work on the issue.

Comment 116:
p. 85 Mt. Biking Trails ¶ 5. A brief distinction between mountain biking and downhill mountain biking (the latter is connected with ski slopes) and the respective locations would complement this section.

Response to comment 116:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 117:
"p. 86 "Bicycling as an allowed use on State-owned land is relatively new,..." - It has been widely understood that bicycling has long been allowed in Wild Forest areas if it is not posted otherwise. If the bicycle corridors had the effect of removing this
allowed use and/or there are other regulations to be aware of these should be explained. The map on the next pages is much easier to read than several others.

Response to comment 117:
"Mountain biking is allowed on Catskill Forest Preserve lands designated as ""Wild Forest"" or ""Primitive Bicycle Corridor"". Mountain biking is not allowed in areas designated as ""Wilderness Areas"". The ""Primitive Bicycle Corridor"" designation was created in the 2008 Catskill Park State Land Master Plan as a result of public interest in mountain biking former public highway routes traversing areas designated as Wilderness. The creation of the "Primitive Bicycle Corridor" in the CPSLMP did not impact the use of bicycles in Wild Forest lands, but rather allowed for connection of bicycle routes on historic roads through what would otherwise be wilderness. We will strive to improve the public's understanding of where bicycles can be ride. They can be used on forest preserve lands classified Wild Forest or Intensive Use.
"

Comment 118:
p. 135 On-Road Bicycling GAPS & STRATEGIES - First sentence: "trail" should be plural. This is a confusing start to a chapter titled On- Road Bicycling... sounds like road biking is a back-up strategy. The TWG has explored Bike Routes on State Highways and there will be inclusion of this topic in the Guidelines for Highway Facilities in the Catskill Park.

Response to comment 118:
Thank you for your comment. The details of the how Bike Routes will be identified and improved would be the responsibility of the Catskill Park Transportation Working Group and are beyond the scope of the GCRCRP.

Comment 119:
p. 138 several county and local roads are mentioned, but the respective highway depts. are not included in the responsible agencies.

Response to comment 119:
This is an issue for the highway dept, as they are not apart of the steering comm., they would not be listed as other responsible parties are not listed either

Comment 120:
page 114, Table 16, I can't get the percentages for all five of the fishing catagories to add. Might be smart to make a separate table for fishing if the table is necessary and if so provide better labeling so that one can figure out what the numbers really mean or how the numbers should add up.

Response to comment 120:
Table 16 is taken from a larger Outdoor Recreation Participation survey conducted by the Outdoor Foundation in 2018. The entire report can be found at https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/general-documents/2018_outdoor_recreation_part.pdf.

Comment 121:
page 115, second paragraph first line - change marketing to market

Response to comment 121:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 122:
page 115, second paragraph last sentence - change to read "In addition, Hispanic American anglers fished approximately 6 times more frequently on average than other anglers.

Response to comment 122:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 123:
Page 115, last paragraph - change smallmouth and largemouth bass to Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass. Common names of fishes are now capitalized according to The American Fisheries Society and The Society of Ichthyologists and Herpatologists.

Response to comment 123:
Thank you for your comment

Comment 124:
Public transport access, even twice daily, between towns and trail heads would help a lot as cell service is poor and taxis are expensive.

Response to comment 124:
Thank you for the comment, it has been noted. This is an issue for the TWG

Comment 125:
I would strongly encourage private shuttle services. These services would not only be convenient for visitors, but would also provide for adequate parking in a trail town, encouraging visitors to spend time and money in the town, but also would provide employment. Shuttles must run on a reliable and frequent schedule to meet hiker needs.

Response to comment 125:
Thank you for the comment, it has been noted. This is an issue for the TWG
Comment 126:
Transit Access – this is highly relevant topic for improving access to the region's public lands but lacks depth and substance. The recommendations cite a transportation study for high use corridors which NYSDEC intends to do. It would have been fruitful to tease out more the model shuttle systems that were noted and focus on concrete recommendations that would apply to this area.

Response to comment 126:
Thank you for the comment, it has been noted. This is an issue for the TWG

Comment 127:
Auto Access – include audio tour of Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway found at http://mtnclovesbyway.com/interactive-map/

Response to comment 127:
Thank you for your response.

Comment 128:
p. 126 "Designated Scenic Roads in Greene County" – these need to be cross referenced with the Durham Valley Scenic Byway, which is just outside the plan area. If the information is retained, it's likely that it is more accurately given the scenic byway title. TravelStorys should be explained a bit more in order to bring in it's computer and mobile device aspects. The Route 28 Audio "Guides" should be "Tours".

Response to comment 128:
Mountain Clove added -Done and Durham Valley Scenic Byway - added bullet as follows: Durham Valley Scenic Byway - a 21-mile corridor that accesses the northernmost escarpment of the Catskill Mountains stretching from the summit of nearby Mount Pisgah along Ginseng Ridge past Windham High Peak - Done Cambria both linked to respective websites

Comment 129:
p. 130 The taxi services should be included, as these serve hikers who want to be dropped off and picked up. (Greene Co.)

Response to comment 129:
Thank you for the comment. Both private taxi services and private rideshare services have been added as bullets under Private Transit on Page 129.

Comment 130:
Regarding the Finger LakeTrail, it has been the FLTC's policy to locate lean-toos at least 15 to 20 miles from each other along the entire 570 mile FLT from the PA border to Slide Mt. in the Catskills. To that end, the FLTC has constructed numerous new lean-toos, usually 2 per year, some on private land and others of public land. In the Catskills however there seems to be a lack of lean-toos along the FLT. I am requesting that a a proposal be inserted in the Comprehensive Plan that addresses the need for more lean-toos, not only along the FLT but

along other long DEC trails as well.

Response to comment 130:
The plan supports the development of camping and other lodging facilities (see Shelter Section). Development of lean-tos at specific sites is best proposed in unit management plans for those lands.

Comment 131:
As I was reading through the Rec. Plan, I was thinking about driving on many of the highways in the Catskills and comparing it to driving in other parks across the country. I would like to see more scenic pullouts. We have beautiful view sheds, but most are not accessible unless one hikes. The pullout on top of Palmer Hill is one of the few in the park. The drive from Kingston up Route 28 is beautiful but there are very few places to actually see anything but the tops of our hills. The trees so close to the highway block much of the view, and also increase the risk of deer-vehicle collisions.

Response to comment 131:
The efforts of the Catskill Park Transportation Working Group include the completion of the NYSDOT Catskill Park Highway Guidelines. When complete, the guidelines would provide clear guidance on improving Park highways in accordance with the park setting.

Comment 132:
It would be nice if there where more pullouts with signage about the local geology, maybe a guide to the peaks, or about flora and fauna in the region. Perhaps even some educational exhibits about living with bears, or other relevant issues. A perfect spot for a pullout with some picnic tables is on DEP property just south of Boiceville along Route 28, a few hundred yards past Bread Alone. It overlooks the Shokan Reservoir, and would be a beautiful overlook. Perhaps it could be adopted and monitored by an organization or business.

Repsonse to comment 132:
The efforts of the Catskill Park Transportation Working Group include the completion of the NYSDOT Catskill Park Highway Guidelines. When complete, the guidelines would provide clear guidance on improving Park highways in accordance with the park setting and make improvements such as this more possible. For any improvements that are made, we would want to ensure that they are able to be maintained and have enough resources to draw visitors in to prevent the creation of unused resources.

Comment 133:
Another issue is that Routes 28 and 23A need more Catskill Centers, clearly indicated with way-finding as rest stops with cellular and wi-fi access available and overnight permit parking and accommodations for RV's which are open 24hr, and with accommodations for busses. We could use areas by Onteora Lake and by Allaben, preferably with an access bridge across the stream at Allaben.

Response to comment 133:
RV's are best accommodated at developed campgrounds. DEC manages 8 campgrounds in the Catskills, and there are several private campgrounds that accommodate RV's. Onteora Lake and the Allaben property are Wild Forest lands with very limited infrastructure, no utilities, where only primitive camping can be provided. The plan does call for Information Kiosks at entry points to the Park and in Trail Towns (Trails Section).

Comment 134:
The addition of new lean-tos in the draft plan seems foolish when you consider how many poorly maintained lean-tos are already in the Catskill Park. Some of the newest ones in the park; Beaver Meadow and the Bouton lean-to are in a poor state of repair with no funds in place to repair them. Again, no maintenance for many years and no maintenance plan in place for new lean-tos would not seem wise.

Response to comment 134:
While DEC is committed to maintenance of recreational facilities throughout the Park, we recognize that it has been difficult at times. We will continue to work with our partners to improve the stewardship of our lands. This Plan is intended to be aspirational, and it is incumbent on all of us to find creative solutions to improve recreational opportunities.

Comment 135:
Adequate parking must be part of a plan for the loop trails and spur trails that are in the document. Our narrow, winding secondary roads do not support roadside parking and create huge safety hazards for both pedestrians walking along the roads and for emergency vehicles that may not be able to pass through. Current parking lots are already beyond capacity. Without a working shuttle in place and adequate parking, the addition of more trails is dangerous.

Response to comment 135:
The Plan recognizes the need for improved transit in the Park (Transit Access Section), and advocates for a "Transit Summit" to develop strategies to address this. In some instances parking can be improved and recently DEC, in partnership with others has expanded several popular trailheads, including Overlook Mountain, Vernooy Kill Falls, Elm Ridge and Willow.

Comment 136:
The human impact on the natural environment of the Park must always be at the forefront of future plans. Package programming that is encouraged in the draft must be thoughtfully investigated before being put in place. With the lack of infrastructure as noted above, there have been heavy human impacts on the natural environment caused by these packages, particularly the Catskill Five Fire Tower Challenge. This challenge did cause a 100-146% increase in visitors in the six months it was in affect. It also caused significant impact on the natural and man made areas where they took place. There was no plan in place before this challenge began to minimize these impacts. It will take years to repair the damage that has been done.

Response to comment 136:
We agree that human impact on the environment must be taken into account when proposing additional facilities or events. The Department is responsible to protect the environment while providing the public access to their lands. As mentioned, the Catskill Five Fire Tower Challenge was a popular event with a total of 881 people who completed the challenge between July and December in 2019. However, this is a small number of visitors in relation to trailhead registry numbers for the fire towers. The biggest factor in significant increases in visitation to all trailheads throughout the State in 2019 was weather related. 2018 was one of the wettest years on record and trailhead registers saw a sharp reduction in total visitor numbers from prior years. 2019 experienced above average weather, resulting in significant increases in visitors to public lands which was documented at nearly all trailheads throughout the State.

Comment 137:
More signage to protect road bikers

Response to comment 137:
The GCRCRP recognizes and documents the many efforts across the region in regional branding and identify. The plan calls for the create of a unified theme and while we agree that signage to improve the biking experience may be warranted, this issue should be dealt with within the Catskill Park Transportation Working Group to ensure consistency in regional branding and identity and to prevent the over-signing of highways.

Comment 138:

Phoenicia / Mount Tobias Wild Forest – This forest has two issues with old forest roads that should be addressed. The first occurs between the trailhead and the fire tower. The second is in the Warner Creek valley. Both of these old roads have drainage issues that need to be addressed. Warner Creek can be extremely powerful at times. A bridge over this creek should be a priority. This would most likely require a reroute of the existing trail on both sides of the creek. Much of the existing trail from the Willow Trail junction to Silver Hollow Notch needs numerous upgrades throughout the area. Primitive Camping sites and also a lean-to should be developed near but not at Warner Creek.

Response to comment 138:
We appreciate these suggestions, which are best directed and addressed in the upcoming revision of the Phoenicia-Mt. Tobias Wild Forest UMP.

Comment 139:
Indian Head Wilderness Area – Thought should be given to improving the primitive campsites in Mink Hollow Some have poor drainage and are sometimes even under water.

Response to comment 139:
Individual primitive campsite improvements fall outside of the scope of this plan. Site specific facilities for the Indian Head Wilderness Area will be addressed through the Unit Management Plan process.

Comment 140:
Five State Forests – Mount Hayden, Mount Pisgah, South Mountain, Ashland Pinnacle and Huntersfield - The Long Path corridor goes through all of these state forests. The NYDEC, NYNJTC and NYCDEP have all been working for years to preserve this corridor. Preserving a few more parcels will result in a complete connection from Elm Ridge Wild Forest to Huntersfield State Forest.

Response to comment 140:
Long distance trails such as the Long Path are specifically called out in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan as areas to protect. We will continue to seek lands to acquire to protect the Long Path Trail corridor as opportunity and funding allow.

Comment 141:
Trail Markers - Currently a majority of hikers in the Catskill Park are not even aware they are on the Long Path. This is because it severely lacks trail markers which identify the Long Path. Also, even the new trail signs fail to mention the Long Path. In the Adirondack Park the Northville-Placid trail has consistent markers which identify the trail

Response to comment 141:
"We agree that long distance trail marking can be improved. We will seek to improve trail marking and associated signage to enhance public knowledge of our long distance trails.
"

Comment 142:
p. 109 "peer-to-peer tent sharing services" is not defined/ explained. While model regulations can assist, actual local law examples illustrate the range of options that can be tailored for individual municipalities.

Response to comment 142:
Peer-to-peer tent sharing services such at Tentrr are referenced on Page 99. If a model regulation is developed, it would be based on existing examples of local law.

Comment 143:
"p. 125 ¶ 1 "...would all benefit from gateway information centers at major entrances to the Catskill Park." This major point needs more emphasis.
The CVC is first referred to as "the gateway"; then gateways are referred to in general. While the CVC location has obvious prominence, the general gateway reference should be applied regionwide. Perhaps such terms as "informational" or "interpretive gateway" would clarify and distinguish the resources at this location, but a separate term may be even better, leaving "gateway" to apply to other entrances.

Response to comment 143:
Thank you for the comment. The intent of the GCRCRP is to consider the CVC as the major gateway to the Catskill Park and the Catskills region. The plan also recommends placing additional visitor resources at key entryways into the region that would build off of information and resources from the CVC and could be tailored as necessary for their specific location.

Comment 144:
p. 128 The wayfinding sign project is implemented; it needs to be sustained and managed over time.

Response to comment 144:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 144:
Disasters, like a bad weekend of injuries at ski areas, reveal the lack of medical services in the Park. With the promotion of biking alone we are bound to see more injuries. This, too, is part of sustainability that needs to be addressed.

Response to comment 145:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 146:
In regards to Airbnb rentals, these short-term rentals have made traditional hotels somewhat irrelevant. Taxing and regulating them seems to be the only way traditional lodging establishments hope to remain competitive. This masks the real problem: traditional hotels and canned experiences are no longer interesting and younger tourists reject them. Airbnb is attractive because it's comparatively inexpensive and allows people to be independent and discover places on their own. People will still seek out the knowledgeable local inn keeper but this person, along with his or her establishment, has become just a data point in the social media age.

Response to comment 146:
Thank you for the comment, this is beyond the scope of this plan

Comment 147:
DEP's management of access to it's lands is an issue. Since these lands were acquired with public funds, and through eminent domain, all areas should be accessible to the Public for Public good for either open or permitted use. Now, many tracts are not accessible at all, even to residents. This impedes access to DEC managed lands for recreation. DEP keeps some of the most beautiful areas designated for hunting and fishing. This creates a "class" of people who can access these areas. Those who don't hunt or fish are excluded. This underprivileged group includes most women as only 11% of hunters and fishers are women. Moreover, less than 4% of the general population hunt. Thus, over 99% of women are excluded. If people don't have the "ability" to hunt or fish, they're excluded. This group includes the young and handicapped. DEP needs

are available as Public Access Areas, open for hunting, fishing, hiking, and trapping. As a water supply, DEP must manage its most sensitive lands more closely for both security and public health concerns, which is the result of limited uses in some properties surrounding Reservoirs.

Comment 148:
Woodstock has some medical access - two doctors offices and a fire department rescue squad, staffed 24hr by a paramedic with volunteer emt and ambulance driver. Woodstock has several public restrooms, in the Town's center, as well as in the Town Hall, Library and Town Offices.

Response to comment 148:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 149
Goal 2 needs to include "facilities". Parking and restrooms are a huge factor in decisions on travel - creation of rest areas is essential.

response to comment 149:
Thank you for your comment and suggestion. The need for associated facilities has been included in Goal 2 on Page 25.

Comment 150:
Are you aware that SUNY Cortland has an Inclusive Recreational Resource Center that includes an online database of recreational facilities that have been assessed in New York State and beyond? https://search.inclusiverec.org/ It would be great to list trails and places in their database and then refer back to it in print and online materials so that information is gathered in one location for people to access.I am reading through the Recreation Plan now and it is quite thorough. There is a lot included in there that I wonder if anyone from communities would be aware.

Response to comment 150:
The Department maintains a public website that lists all of our facilities. Many of these facilities are maintained as Accessible facilities and conform to Universal Design for Accessibility and are subject to inspection to insure the facilities are in conformance with standards. The Department is aware of SUNY Cortland's programs and actively engage with them in facility inspections and listings of Accessible sites.

Comment 151:
As I understand it, no work can be done on state lands unless it is included in the individual UMP for those lands. The Catskill State Land Master Plan (2008) has many facets that are currently not instituted due to lack of resources, both funding resources and personnel resources. One example is clearing of view points. To update an Individual UMP is an extremely lengthy process. Many have not been updated since the mid 1990's. The process of updating the UMP's to include the newly proposed trails will require personnel that needs to be hired or will take years to occur.

Response to comment 151:
Trails and other facilities proposed for forest preserve lands in this Plan are conceptual and need to be fully reviewed through the UMP process to ensure natural resource impacts are identified and mitigated. Most of the vista's on forest preserve lands have been identified in UMPs and can be maintained. DEC staff have been working to clear overgrown vistas and have included volunteers working under a VSA when appropriate.

Comment 152:
The wayfinding sign project is complete but needs ongoing management, e.g. new locations and data integra-

tion with DOT and DEC. Please remove reference to Genius Loci Planning's website, as there is no guarantee this resource will be sustained and updated. GLP is working with DOT to transfer the data. Currently, the interactive maps may be viewed; however, the ability to amend the maps is not functioning. While this could be remedied, it is more sustainable and logical to house the data with the state agencies.

Response to comment 152:
Thank you for your comment.

Comment 153
There is no mention of wildlife habitat improvements and management to support activities such as hunting, fishing, or bird/wildlife viewing. Much of the Catskill region has lost the diverse habitat needed for birds such as ruffed grouse and song birds. This due to the maturation of the forests, development and the loss of farming. Habitat projects also benefit water quality. Groups such as Ruffed Grouse Society, Audubon Society, Wild Turkey Federation, and other conservation groups can help in this development.

Response to comment 153:
/ DEP is supportive of recreational projects that integrate wildlife habitat improvement or wildlife viewing. DEP is also responsible for implementing various habitat or water quality improvements projects such as sustainable forest management, invasive species control, pollinator habitat improvement, etc. While many of these projects are not related to recreation, we do look for opportunities to integrate to the goals when possible.

Comment 154:
Trail Signage and markers- Many hikers have commented to the CMC and the FLTC that the trail markers as well as trail signs at intersections are in very poor condition. Some of the signage is virtually unreadable, faded or broken. In addition, many of the colored trail markers are either faded, chewed by animals or altogether missing. I am requesting that a a proposal be inserted in the Comprehensive Plan that addresses the need to upgrade the hiking trail signage and markers. Up until a few years ago, the FLT trail maintainers and other volunteer trail sponsors were allowed to put up new trail markers where needed. These markers were provided by DEC foresters. Several years ago we were told that only DEC foresters or rangers could replace missing markers and we were forbidden to do so. With only a hand full of DEC foresters and with the Rangers having more pressing things to do, the trail marking situation has deteriorated significantly. I propose that a training program for volunteers be initiated and that the volunteers again be allowed to mark the trails.

Response to comment 154:
We have added a proposal in the Trails Section of the plan to assess trail signage and marking and make improvements when necessary. Volunteers working under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement could contribute to this effort.

Comment 155:
Trail Signage and markers- Many hikers have commented to the CMC and the FLTC that the trail markers as well as trail signs at intersections are in very poor condition. Some of the signage is virtually unreadable, faded or broken. In addition, many of the colored trail markers are either faded, chewed by animals or altogether missing. I am requesting that a a proposal be inserted in the Comprehensive Plan that addresses the need to upgrade the hiking trail signage and markers. Up until a few years ago, the FLT trail maintainers and other volunteer trail sponsors were allowed to put up new trail markers where needed. These markers were provided by DEC foresters. Several years ago we were told that only DEC foresters or rangers could replace missing markers and we were forbidden to do so. With only a hand full of DEC foresters and with the Rangers having more pressing things to do, the trail marking situation has deteriorated significantly. I propose that a training program for volunteers be initiated and that the volunteers again be allowed to mark the trails.

Response to Comment 155:
We have added a proposal in the Trails Section of the plan to assess trail signage and marking and make improvements when necessary. Volunteers working under a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement could contribute to this effort.

Comment 156:
To help disperse the crowds and foster an appreciation for nature, I believe the key is to teach people how to observe and understand nature. Then a far corner of the Park that is unused and unglamorous can become desirable. Rather than conquering all the summits, people are content to wander into the woods a short distance to perhaps look at flowers or sit by a small stream. So yes to increased stewardship programs and incentives and experiences that increase people's ecological quotient.

Response to comment 157:
Thank you for your comment.