

## 2006 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan



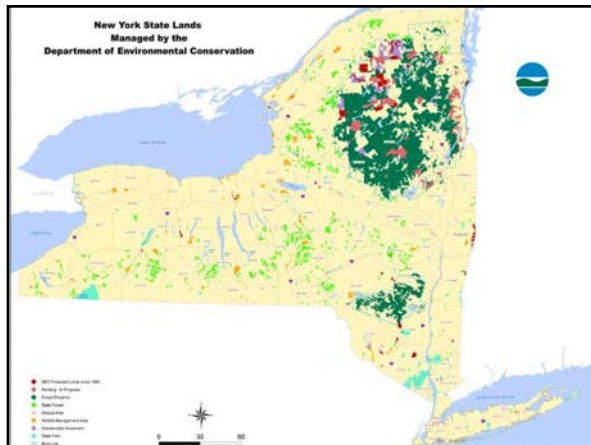
Letchworth State Park

## Open Space Conservation Plan

- For the past fifteen years the Plan has served as the blueprint for conservation of open space in NYS
- The Plan is an important part of New York's commitment to conservation of natural resources.
- Grassroots, bottom-up approach to open space conservation.
- Broad based support – county, region and state input.



Beechwood State Park

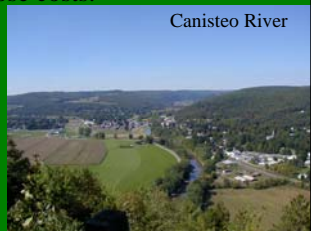


## Principles

- Work in partnerships to establish and achieve land conservation goals.
- Regional and state planning to grow intelligently.
- Fitting the appropriate strategy to the resource.
- Establish careful and understandable priorities

## Principles cont'd

- Land conservation needs and broad based citizen opinion.
- Deal fairly and openly with property owners
- Define costs of implementation and propose methods for meeting those costs.
- Management and stewardship
- Maintain working landscapes
- Economic value of open space



Canisteo River

## Goals

- Protect water quality
- Provide outdoor recreation
- Protect scenic, historic and cultural resources
- Protect habitat for the diversity of plant and animal species
- Protect endangered species, threatened species and species of special concern.
- Sustain the traditional pastimes of hunting, fishing, trapping and viewing fish and wildlife.
- Maintain critical natural resource based industries

## Goals cont'd

- Provide places for education and research on ecological, environmental and appropriate cultural resources to provide a better understanding of the systems from which they derive.
- Preserve open space, particularly forest lands, for the protection and enhancement of air quality.



## Overview

Chapter I describes the foundations of the State Open Space Conservation Plan.

Chapter II evaluates the benefit of open space and describes open space conservation successes that have resulted from the Plan.



## Overview cont'd

- Chapter III summarizes the available natural and cultural resource inventory data and resource categories used to assess open space conservation needs. It then describes the process DEC and OPRHP use to determine what open space resources are worthy of conservation.
- Chapter IV describes the project eligibility and evaluation process used by the State to guide its land conservation program

## Overview cont'd

- Chapter V contains the recommendations of the nine Regional Advisory Committees (RACs). These regional recommendations are included in this document as submitted.



## Overview cont'd

- Chapter VI lists the Priority Open Space Conservation projects that are the focus of conservation attention.
- These projects are eligible for funding from the State's Environmental Protection Fund and other state, federal and local funding sources.



## Overview cont'd

- Chapter VII discusses the importance of providing proper stewardship of both private and publicly held open space resources.



## Overview cont'd

- Chapter VIII includes a variety of recommendations to maintain New York's leadership role on our Open Space program for the future.



Honeoye Inlet Wildlife Management Area  
Harriet Hollister Spencer State Park

## Overview cont'd

- Chapter IX contains the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement.



Hemlock Lake

## Accomplishments

- Nearly 924,000 acres has been protected since 1995, most of which is open to hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife observation. About a 20% increase in public land opportunities.
- Invested nearly \$600 million from the EPF and Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.



Genesee Valley Greenway

## Land Holdings Chart

Government Unit	Land Type	Acres (Rounded to the Nearest Thousand)
DEC	Adirondack & Catskill Forest Preserve	3,000,000
	State Forest, Reforestation & MUA	776,000
	Wildlife Management Area	190,000
	Conservation Easements	613,000 *some acreage pending closure
OPRHP	State Parks (172)	311,000
	Historic Sites (35)	7,000
Thruway Authority	Barge Canal Lands	24,000
	Reservoirs	12,000
Federal Government	Wildlife Refuges	140,000
	Historic Sites	16,000
	National Forests	16,000
Local Government	County	100,000
	City/Village	51,000
	Town	16,000
NYC Watershed	Fee	60,000
	Conservation Easement	16,000
Agriculture and Markets	Farmland PDR	36,000
Protected Land Total		5,368,000
Total Land Area of NYS		31,106,541

## REGION 8 STATE LANDS



## Region 8 Open Space Priority Projects

- Lake Ontario and Lake Erie Shorelines and Islands and Niagara River
- Northern Montezuma Wetlands
- Emerald Necklace
- Finger Lakes Shorelines
- Catherine Valley Complex
- Hi-Tor Bristol Hills
- Seneca Army Depot
- Sonnenberg Gardens
- Western Finger Lakes: Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice and Honeoye
- Junius Ponds
- Chemung River Greenbelt
- Indian Hills Golf Club
- Wolf Gully
- Westbury Bog
- Genesee Valley Greenway
- Tonawanda Creek Watershed

## Open Space Regional Advisory Committee

### County Representatives

Genesee County - George Squires  
 Livingston County - David Woods  
 Monroe County - Paul A. Johnson  
 Ontario County - Kristen Mark Hughes  
 Orleans County - Wayne Hale  
 Seneca County - Harriet Haynes  
 Schuyler County - Danielle Hautaniemi  
 Steuben County - Amy Dlugos  
 Wayne County - Sharon Lilla  
 Yates County - Judson Peck

### At-Large Representatives

Irene Brown - Friends of Queen Catherine Marsh  
 Bruce Gillman - Finger Lakes Community College  
 Edward D. Holmes - Genesee Valley Greenway  
 Jim Howe - The Nature Conservancy  
 James D. Howell Jr. - Schuyler County Watershed  
 Betsy Landre - Finger Lakes Land Trust  
 Evelyn Gay Mills - Genesee Land Trust  
 William Ostrander - Chemung Valley Audubon Society  
 Mona Rynearson - Bergen Swamp Preservation Society  
 Irene Szabo - Finger Lakes Trail Conference  
 John VanNeil - Friends of Montezuma

## Open Space State Agency Representatives

### Department of Environmental Conservation

Randall C. Nemecek, Supervisor for Natural Resources  
 Linda J. Vera, Citizen Participation Specialist  
 Douglas Bernhard, Regional Forester  
 Dave Odell, Regional Wildlife Manager  
 Jim Eckler, Senior Wildlife Biologist  
 David C. Woodruff, Senior Wildlife Biologist\*  
 James R. Peck, Regional Forester, Region 8\*

### Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Jack Clancy, Regional Director, Finger Lakes Region\*  
 Sue Poelvoorde, Natural Resources Planner, Finger Lakes Region  
 Dan Davis, Assistant Regional Director, Finger Lakes Region  
 Richard Parker, Regional Director, Genesee Region  
 Charles King, Park Engineer, Genesee Region  
 \* Now Retired

## New Recommendations

- Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Promote Local Open Space Planning/Quality Communities Program
- Governor's Community Preservation Act
- Empire State Greenway
- Oppose the Joint Taxation Committee recommendations for tax law regarding charitable donations.



Hamlin Beach State Park

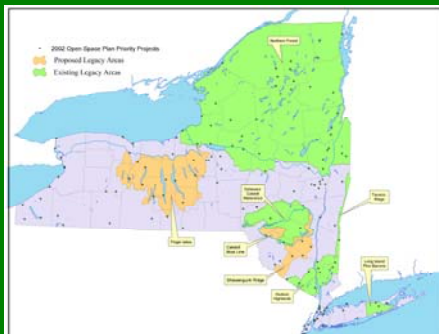
## New Recommendations cont'd

- Forest Legacy Expansion
- Funding needs for the future
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program



Canadice Lake

## Proposed Forest Legacy Expansion



## More Information

Visit our website at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

Click Lands and Waters

Click NYS Open Space Conservation Plan



Northern Montezuma Complex