



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Accessible Outdoor Recreation

Presentation to NYS Conservation Council

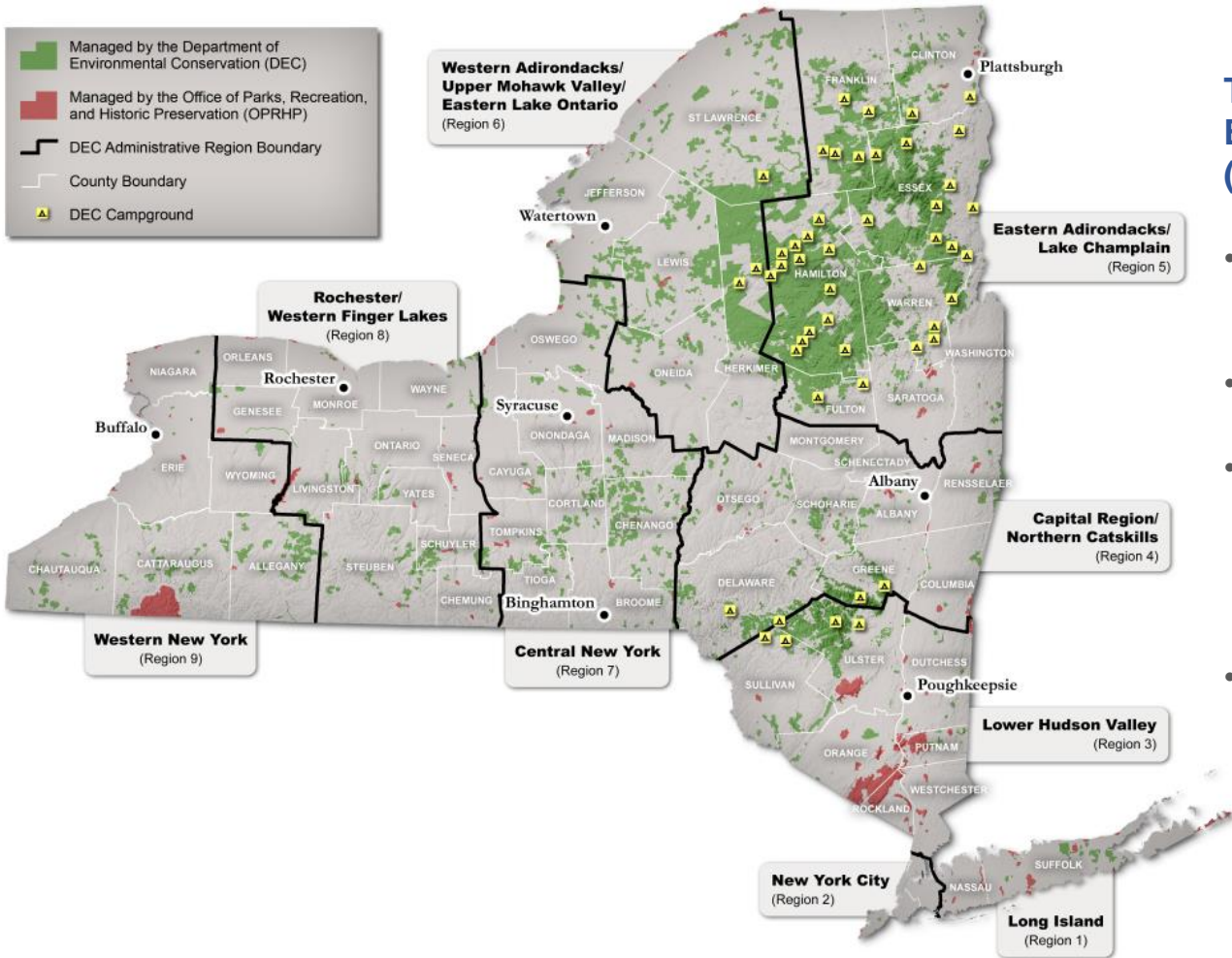
Leah Akins, DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator

August 11, 2023

Talk Outline



- Who is DEC?
- What is the DEC Accessibility Program?
- Where are DEC Accessible Recreation Destinations?
- How does DEC accommodate people with disabilities?



The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):

- manages the majority of state recreation lands (4.9 million acres statewide)
- administers fishing and hunting licenses
- protects air and water quality and natural resources by enforcing environmental regulations and providing grant funding
- provides environmental education and outreach

DEC Accessibility Program

- **Provide guidance**, technical support, and training to DEC programs
- **Engage people with disabilities** in DEC programs and decision-making
- **Improve access** to diversify visitors to state lands
 - Accessibility assessments
 - Public information on accessible facilities
 - Respond to public inquires and coordinate accommodation requests
 - Outreach and partnerships



Accessibility Advisory Committee
Field Trip to Lewey Lake 2021

DEC Accessibility Advisory Committee



Accessible Recreation

ADA Accessibility Coordinators

Accessible Recreation Destinations

Accessible Features at Campgrounds & Day Use Areas

Americans with Disabilities Act Grievance Procedure

Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD)

Case by Case Accommodation Program for Power-driven Mobility Devices

Fishing Access for Anglers with Disabilities

[Home](#) » [Outdoor Activities](#) » [State Recreation Lands](#) » Accessible Recreation

Accessible Recreation

NYSDEC welcomes all visitors to explore outdoor recreation on state lands and we are committed to providing an ever-increasing range of accessible opportunities. Currently, visitors to our accessible facilities can enjoy fishing, boating, hunting, canoeing, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, visiting historic assets, wildlife observation and camping at DEC campgrounds as well as primitive areas.

Accessibility improvements invite families with children in strollers and people with mobility issues to our state lands. Various methods of communication are utilized to include people with hearing or sight disabilities in environmental education. Our focus is on inclusion and not separate programs.

Many of our sites were designed to provide people with choices about the type of recreational experience and level of personal challenge they prefer. We encourage visitors to contact DEC's [ADA Accessibility Coordinators](#) to discuss their individual needs and recreational pursuits with knowledgeable staff.

The NYS Access Pass, which is administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), is accepted at DEC campgrounds and day use areas. DEC does not issue Access Passes. You can get an Access Pass and more information at [the OPRHP website](#).

Service animals are welcome at all DEC sites. Special permits and licenses for [hunting](#) and [fishing](#) are available to people with disabilities.



▶ Watch a clip about [recent investments in outdoor recreation](#) and check out other clips on DEC's [YouTube Channel](#).



More about Accessible Recreation:

[ADA Accessibility Coordinators](#) - Contact information for DEC Access Coordinators who can provide more information on accessible destinations and programs

[Accessible Recreation Destinations](#) - List of accessible places to go on DEC lands for each county in New York State

[Accessible Features at Campgrounds & Day Use Areas](#) - Up-to-date information on accessible features at DEC Campgrounds and Day Use Areas.

[Americans with Disabilities Act Grievance Procedure](#) - DEC grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of nonemployment related complaints, alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in DEC practices and policies, or the provisions of its programs, services, and activities.

[Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities \(MAPPWD\)](#) - Application for permit to use motorized vehicles by persons with disabilities on specified DEC trails

[Case by Case Accommodation Program for Power-driven Mobility Devices](#) - Request for accommodation for the use of power-driven mobility devices on DEC lands

[Fishing Access for Anglers with Disabilities](#) - Map with links to regional web pages of fishing access sites for anglers with disabilities.

**Important Links**
[Accessible Recreation Mapping - DECinfo Locator](#)
[DEC Campgrounds](#)
[Fishing and Hunting Licenses/Permits for People with Disabilities](#)
Links Leaving DEC's Website
[Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation \(OPRHP\) - Access Pass](#)
[US Department of Justice ADA Center](#)
[US Access Board](#)
PDF Help

For help with PDFs on this page, please call 518-402-9295.

Contact for this Page

NYSDEC
Accessibility Program
Division of Operations
625 Broadway
Albany, NY
12233-5253
518-402-9295
Send us an email

This Page Covers

**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Accessible Recreation Destinations

Linked Counties have Recreational Areas with Access Features for People with Disabilities

Counties are organized by Region

- **Long Island:** Nassau | Suffolk
- **New York City:** Bronx | Kings | New York | Kings | Queens | Richmond
- **Lower Hudson Valley:** Dutchess | Orange | Putnam | Rockland | Sullivan | Ulster | Westchester
- **Capital Region/Northern Catskills:** Albany | Columbia | Delaware | Greene | Montgomery | Otsego | Rensselaer | Schoenectady | Schoharie
- **Eastern Adirondacks/Lake Champlain:** Clinton | Essex | Franklin | Fulton | Hamilton | Saratoga | Warren | Washington
- **Western Adirondacks/Upper Mohawk Valley/Eastern Lake Ontario:** Herkimer | Jefferson | Lewis | Oneida | St. Lawrence
- **Central New York:** Broome | Cayuga | Chenango | Cortland | Madison | Onondaga | Oswego | Tioga | Tompkins
- **Rochester/Western Finger Lakes:** Chemung | Genesee | Livingston | Monroe | Ontario | Orleans | Schuyler | Seneca | Steuben | Wayne | Yates
- **Western New York:** Allegany | Cattaraugus | Chautauqua | Erie | Niagara | Wyoming

Long Island

Nassau County

Oyster Bay Western Waterfront Boat Launch Site    





Suffolk County

Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Preserve  

Forge Pond 









Hashamomuck Marine Waterway Access Site    

Kings Park Unique Area 

Mattituck Creek Waterway Access Site    



DEC has over 60 accessible hiking trails statewide.

Key of Accessible Icons			
 Boating	 Trails	 Equestrian	 Nature Observation
 Camping	 Fishing	 Picnicking	 Interpretive Site

Mountains, lakes, waterfalls, fire towers, and more...



Catskill Center Fire Tower



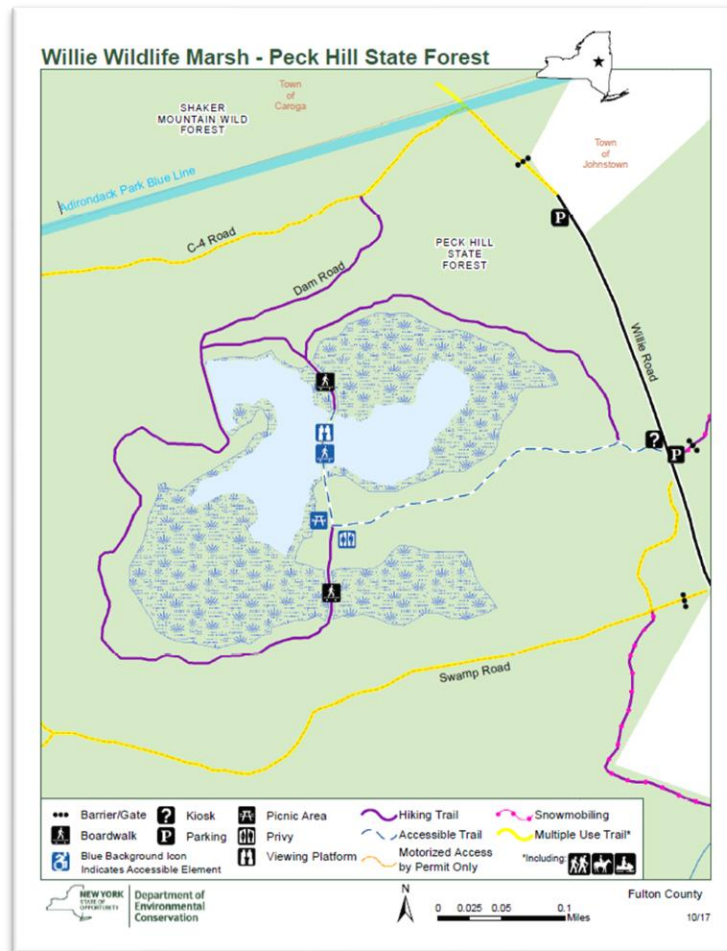
Kaaterskill Falls, Catskills



Prospect Mountain, Lake George

Willie Wildlife Marsh

Peck Hill State Forest



Adirondack Park



DEC Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

Catskill Park



NEW YORK STATE
CAMPING GUIDE



Photo Credit: Brady Hannel
New York State Camping Guide - State Campgrounds Information & Maps Guide Cover with one photo: Woman and her dog overlooking forest and mountains covered with fog.

STATE CAMPGROUNDS INFORMATION & MAPS



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Department of Environmental Conservation



Department of Environmental Conservation

Northampton Beach Campground & Day Use Area



icon key



New Adaptive Equipment (2020-22)

- Five Beach Access Mats
- Two Wheelchair Charging Stations
- Two Mobility Devices-
Beach wheelchair and Trail Scooter

Funded by CDC and
NYS DOH Disability
and Health Program



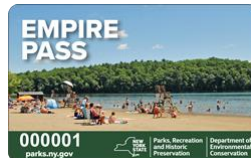
Discounts for NYS Residents with Disabilities

• People with Qualifying Permanent Disabilities

- [Access Pass](#) - free access to most day use areas and discounted camping reservations for DEC and State Parks.
- Free fishing licenses for individuals who are blind
- Hunters with disabilities may qualify for [special permits](#).

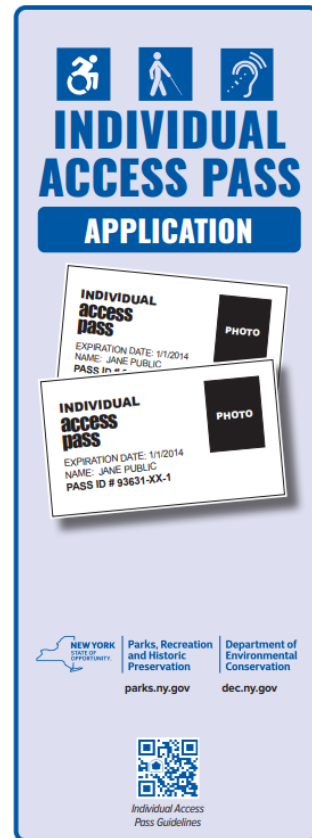
• Veterans with Qualifying Military Disability

- [Discounted sporting license](#)- \$5 for fishing, trapping, and hunting licenses
- [Lifetime Liberty Pass](#) – equivalent benefits as Access Pass.



Other Discounts

- **Seniors:** Sporting licenses, [Golden Parks Program](#)- discounted access to DEC and State Parks
- **Active Duty Military:** [Patriot Plan](#) free sporting licenses, [Empire Pass Patriot Plan Benefit](#)
- **Every Kid in a Park-** All 4th graders get in free to NYS Parks and DEC day use areas.



DEC Permits for Hunters with Disabilities

- **Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit**

- The [Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit](#) allows qualified hunters to shoot a firearm from a motorized vehicle.

- **Non-Ambulatory Access to State Lands**

- DEC offers designated roads for motor vehicle use by authorized individuals with a [Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities](#) permit.

- **Modified Longbow Authorization**

- The [Modified Longbow Authorization](#) allows qualified individuals to hunt with a bow equipped with a device to aid in the drawing, holding and releasing of the bowstring.

- **Crossbow Accommodations**

- The [Modified Crossbow Permit](#) allows qualified individuals to hunt with a crossbow specifically modified to be discharged with use of a breath tube.
- *People with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation for use of an unmodified crossbow during the regular bow season.*





DEC initiative to enhance access to nature and the outdoors, and minimize barriers to participation



- [First-time Camper](#)
- [NYS Birding Trail](#)
- [Get Outdoors and Get Together Day](#)

I  NY

NEW YORK STATE
**BIRDING
TRAIL**



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Environmental Education Centers

- Five Rivers, Capital Region
- Reinstein Woods, Western NY
- Rogers Center, Central NY
- Stony Kill Farm, Hudson Valley



Reinstein Woods



Five Rivers Center



Stony Kill Center



Rogers Center

FIVE RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
FISHER TRAIL

Accessible Section

Length 0.5 miles

Elevation Gain 24 feet

Elevation Loss 34 feet

GRADE
 Running slope or trail incline (rise over run)

Typical Grade 3 %

Maximum Grade 6 %

CROSS SLOPE
 Trail incline across its width (rise over run)

Typical Cross Slope 2 %

Maximum Cross Slope 2 %

TREAD WIDTH
 Clear distance across trail

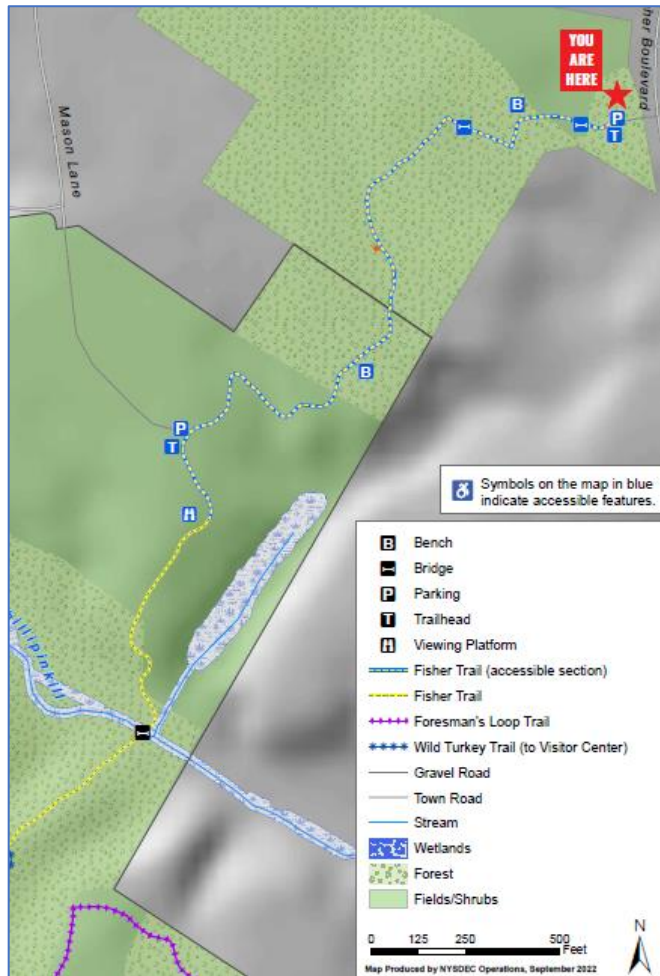
Typical Width 5 feet

Minimum Width 5 feet

SURFACE
 Type and condition of trail material

Surface Type Compacted Stone

Department of Environmental Conservation
 Trail assessed September 2022.
 DEC Accessible Recreation
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035



Thank You

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- 518.402.9295



Resources:

- [DEC Accessibility Landing Page](#)
 - Accessible Recreation Destinations
 - DEC Accessibility Coordinators
 - Programs and adaptive equipment
- [DEC Discounts for Outdoor Recreation Page](#)
- [NYS State Parks Discounts Page](#)





“We *all* deserve access to lands open to the public, commensurate with our willingness to challenge ourselves and our desire to experience nature.”
-Debra Wolf Goldstein and Larry Knutson

