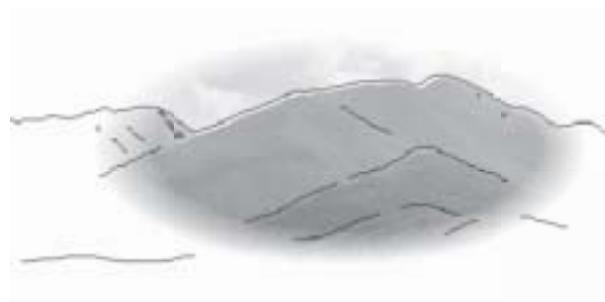


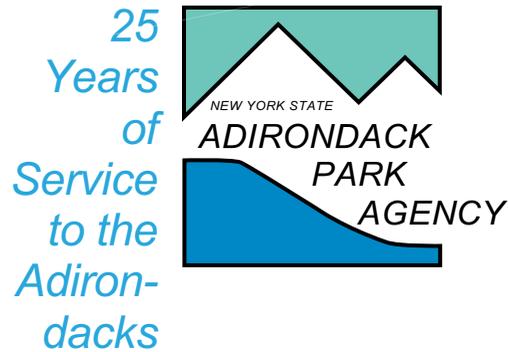
The Adirondack Park Agency is a State agency created in 1971 to develop long range policies and management plans for public and private lands within the Adirondack Park. The Agency also administers the State's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act and the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act within the Park.

The Agency operates two Park visitor interpretive centers in Paul Smiths, Franklin County and Newcomb, Essex County for environmental education and visitor orientation.

PLANNING FOR THE ADIRONDACK PARK FOREST PRESERVE



A visitor to New York's Adirondack Park will find the **largest** area of designated **wilderness**, state or federal, east of the headwaters of the Mississippi River. The Adirondack Forest Preserve includes additional areas designated "Wild Forest" that are protected by the New York State Constitution as "**forever wild.**"



George E. Pataki, Governor
 Richard H. Lefebvre, Chairman
 Daniel T. Fitts, Executive Director

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 Post Office Box 99
 Ray Brook, NY 12977

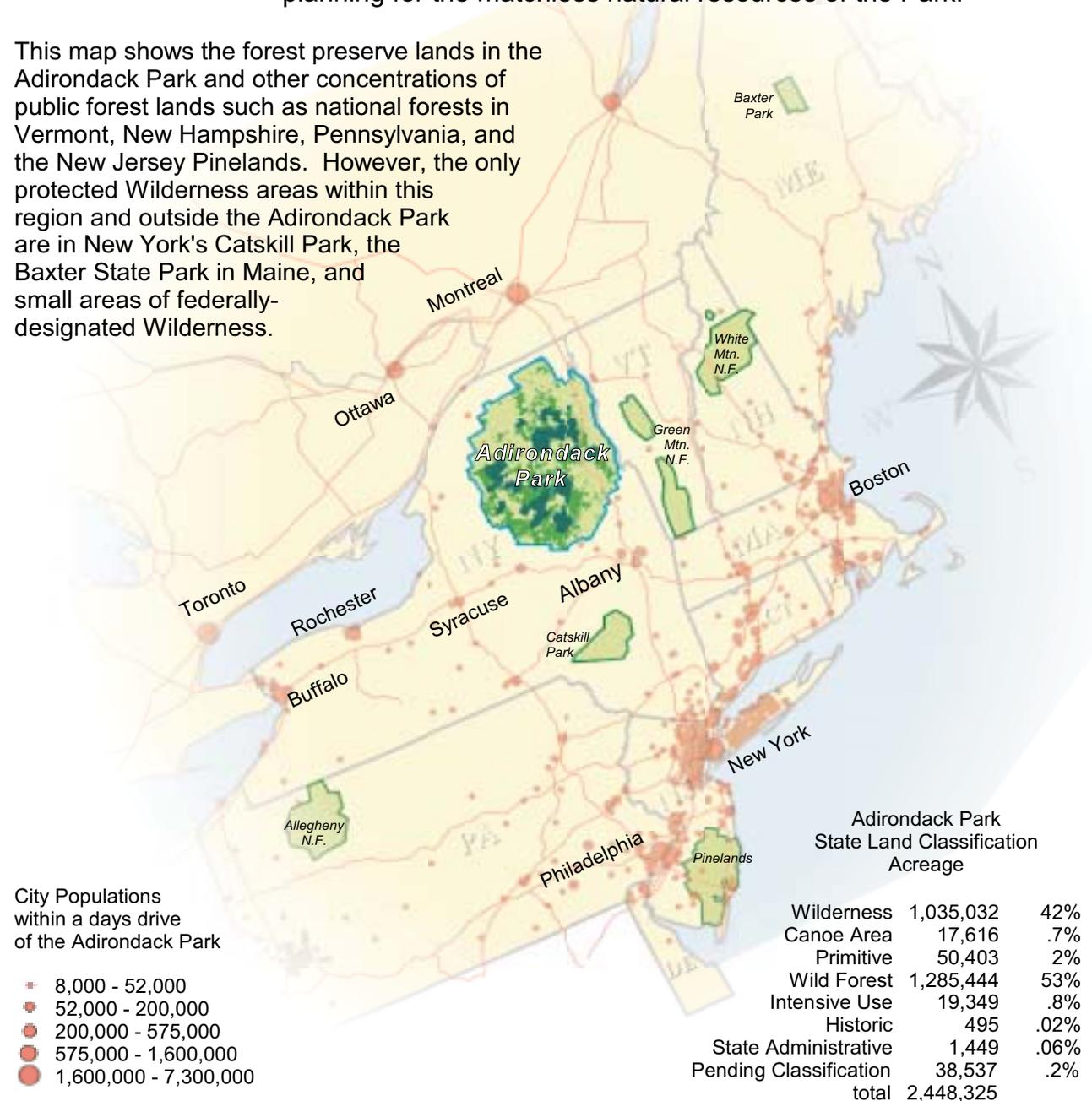
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 (518) 891-3938 fax

August 1999

WILDLANDS IN THE NORTHEAST

The six million acre Adirondack Park is a mix of public and private lands; a resource of unparalleled and international significance, accessible to over 60 million people within a day's drive of the Park. Visitors from the increasingly congested urban centers in Canada and the Northeastern U. S. provide a major impetus for planning for the matchless natural resources of the Park.

This map shows the forest preserve lands in the Adirondack Park and other concentrations of public forest lands such as national forests in Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and the New Jersey Pinelands. However, the only protected Wilderness areas within this region and outside the Adirondack Park are in New York's Catskill Park, the Baxter State Park in Maine, and small areas of federally-designated Wilderness.



A FRAMEWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK FOREST PRESERVE

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (the "Master Plan"), prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act in 1972, provides a framework for stewardship of the Park's public lands. Prepared by the Agency, the Master Plan is approved by the Governor, and implemented by the Department of Environmental Conservation. This partnership has been revitalized with the approval of the High Peaks Wilderness Complex Unit Management Plan by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation in July of this year.

Substantially all of the State's approximately 2,500,000 acres of land administered in the Adirondack Park by the Department of Environmental Conservation form part of the Adirondack forest preserve and are protected by the "forever wild" clause of Article XIV, §1 of the State Constitution.



Sixteen tracts of Adirondack Forest Preserve, comprising slightly more than one million acres, are designated Wilderness by the Master Plan. These areas are reserved for such wilderness uses as camping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, hunting, trapping, snowshoeing and ski touring. Buildings and access by motor vehicles or motorized equipment are prohibited.

The largest single classification of land (totaling 1.3 million acres) is Wild Forest, where a variety of outdoor recreation activities are allowed, including the use of motorized vehicles in designated places. Other categories of state lands are: Primitive and Canoe areas, managed similarly to Wilderness areas; Intensive Use areas, such as public campgrounds, developed beaches and boat launching sites; and State Historic Sites.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STEWARDSHIP

Unit Management Plans are also called for by Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, to be prepared by the Department of Environmental Conservation to frame opportunities for stewardship of the forest preserve lands. The general objectives include:

- actions to minimize adverse impacts on the resources of the area.
- rehabilitation of such portions of the area as may suffer from overuse or resource degradation.
- limitation of public use such that the carrying capacity of the area is not exceeded.
- preservation of aquatic and terrestrial habitats.
- preservation and management of the fish and wildlife resources (including game and non-game species) of the area.
- preservation and management of the lakes, ponds, rivers and streams of the area, with particular attention to all proposed or designated wild, scenic and recreational rivers.
- identification of needed additions or improvements to, and plans for providing for further appropriate public use of the area consistent with its carrying capacity.
- the identification, in intensive use, historic and appropriate portions of wild forest areas accessible by motor vehicles, of measures that can be taken to improve access to and enjoyment of these lands, and associated structures and improvements, by people with disabilities.

Within Wild Forest areas, these opportunities may include more developed wild land recreation like the horse trails found within the Independence River Wild Forest in the Western Adirondacks, the interpretive trail up Blue Mountain near the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake (Blue Mountain Wild Forest) or fishing access in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest in the Eastern Adirondacks. For Wilderness areas, the Unit Management Plans address the difficult issues of ensuring public use consistent with the carrying capacity of the area's resources.

