

# Discovering New York's Nature in the Catskill Park

In 1894, New York State began setting aside land in the Catskills to be kept forever as wild forest. In 1904, the state established a boundary around 705,500 mountainous acres deemed "forever wild" in Greene, Delaware, Sullivan and Ulster counties, and the Catskill Park was born!

The park is a patchwork of public and private land. Nearly 300,000 acres comprise the state forest preserve. New York City owns more than 40,000 acres within the park to protect the city's drinking water reservoirs. The remaining land is privately owned and home to thousands of year-round residents.

Recreation and tourism exist side by side with the traditional mainstays of the Catskill economy: timber harvesting, farming and mining. Just as the mountains offer a breathtaking setting for outdoor adventures, the park's villages offer excellent accommodations, dining and a variety of cultural experiences.

From B&Bs to campgrounds, you'll find an ideal base for discovering New York's nature in any season.



From sandy beaches to undeveloped lakes, the Catskill Park offers many great places to cool off.

Stay at one of eight New York State campgrounds, or try primitive camping in a tent or lean-to in the state forest preserve.

Most public lands in the region are open to both big and small game hunting for NYS-licensed hunters.

# Boating and Water Recreation in the Catskills

The Catskills offer water recreation of all kinds, including tubing, swimming and boating. Many DEC campgrounds and fishing spots have launch sites for small boats. Some of the most popular DEC launch sites are listed by county below. For New York City reservoir boating information, see "Water for the Big Apple" in this brochure.

## DELAWARE COUNTY

WATERBODY	LOCATION	TYPE	PARKING	FEE?	CONTACT	NOTES
<b>LAUNT POND</b>	Bear Spring Mountain Campground	Hand launch. No motors.	6 spaces.	Day-use fee in season.	607-865-6989	Open when campground is open. Boat rentals.
<b>RUSS GRAY POND</b>	Bear Spring Mtn. Wild-life Management Area	Beach launch. Electric motors only.	4 spaces.	No fee.	607-865-6989	Year-round access as conditions allow.
<b>LITTLE POND</b>	Little Pond Campground	Hard surface ramp. No motors allowed.	20 spaces.	Day-use fee in season.	845-439-5480	Open when campground is open. Boat rentals.
<b>BIG POND</b>	Delaware Wild Forest	Hand launch. If motorized, electric is encouraged.	6 spaces.	No fee.	607-652-7366	Year-round access as conditions allow.

## GREENE COUNTY

<b>COLGATE LAKE</b>	Colgate Lake Wild Forest	Hand launch.	20 spaces, 2 accessible near fishing	No fee.	607-652-7366	Year-round access as conditions allow.
<b>NORTH-SOUTH LAKE</b>	North-South Lake Campground	Hard surface ramp. No motors.	60 spaces.	Day-use fee in season.	518-589-5058	Open when campground is open. Boat rentals.

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

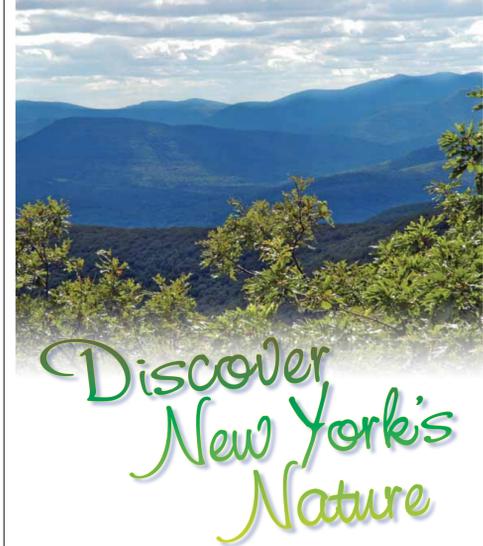
<b>MONGAUP POND</b>	Mongaup Pond Campground	Hand launch. Electric motors only.	20 spaces.	Day-use fee in season.	845-439-4233	Year-round access as conditions allow.
<b>WANETA LAKE</b>	North of Livingston Manor	Hand launch. Electric motors only.	5 spaces.	No fee.	845-256-3076	Year-round access as conditions allow.

## ULSTER COUNTY

<b>ALDER LAKE</b>	Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest, Turnwood	Hand launch. Electric motors only.	10 spaces.	No fee.	845-256-3076	Year-round access as conditions allow.
<b>ONTEORA LAKE</b>	Bluestone Wild Forest (just east of Kingston)	Hand launch. Electric motors only.	10 spaces, 2 accessible.	No fee.	845-256-3076	Year-round access as conditions allow.
<b>UPPER POND</b>	Kenneth L. Wilson Campground, Mount Tremper	Hand launch. No motors allowed.	50 spaces.	Day-use fee in season.	845-679-7020	Year-round access as conditions allow.
<b>PINE HILL LAKE</b>	Belleayre Mountain Day-Use Area	Hand launch. No motors allowed.	50 spaces.	Day-use fee in season.	845-254-5600	Open when day-use area is open. Rentals.

# Catskill Park

## Map and Guide



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

# Watchable Wildlife

Whether vacationing in the mountains or just traveling through, you'll encounter some of the wild creatures that make your Catskills excursion a thrilling adventure. From the New York Wildlife Viewing Guide, here are four of the most popular places in the Catskill Park for watching wildlife:



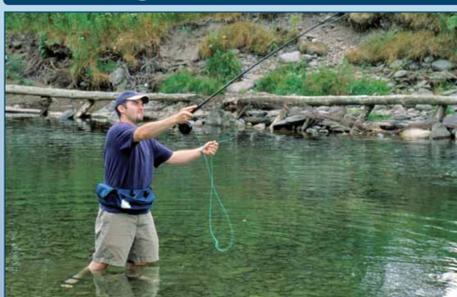
**SLIDE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS**  
Extensive foot trails ascend to spectacular views deep within this largest and most popular wilderness in the Catskills. Heavily forested, Slide Mountain supports a tremendous diversity of wildlife. The trees ring with birdsong. The woods sustain a thriving bear population. Deer, turkey, beaver, fisher and coyote are found here as well. Contact Region 3 Forester: 845-256-3083; NYSDEC [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/9150.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/9150.html)

**NORTH-SOUTH LAKE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND**  
Deer and bear share the woods with red squirrels at this largest campground in the Catskills, which is also open for day-use. Birders will find turkey, ruffed grouse, hawks, owls and a variety of songbirds. Geese and mallards are common sights on the lake. You can fish for bass while the kids catch panfish or discover frogs and turtles near the bank. Contact: 518-589-5058; County Route 18, Haines Falls, NY 12436; [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/55669.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/55669.html)

**BALD EAGLES IN THE CATSKILL PARK** This iconic bird, no longer on the Endangered Species List, now ranges over a wide area in the Catskills. A chance to see our majestic national bird in the wild is not to be missed, so here are some good places to do that: **New York City Water Supply Reservoirs: Ashokan, Neversink, Pepacton and Rondout**, the latter with its special eagle-viewing site. **Delaware River system**, including the **Beaver Kill** and the **Neversink River**.

**LITTLE POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND**  
As you climb the trail to Touchment Mountain for a breathtaking view, look for bald eagles, turkey or dozens of other forest birds. Deer and red squirrels are commonly seen. Less frequently, you'll spy a fox or bear. The campground is also open for day-use, but camping overnight might just allow you to surprise raccoons noisily scrounging for a meal. Contact: 845-439-5480; 549 Little Pond State Campground Road, Andes, NY 13731; [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24478.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24478.html)

# Fishing the Catskills



The Catskills are famous for trout fishing. Both fly and bait anglers find streams with great spots for catching their limit of brown, rainbow and brook trout.

Here are four of the best:

**ESOPUS CREEK**  
The Esopus is one of the most popular trout streams in the Catskills, offering excellent fishing for wild browns and rainbows. The headwaters hold wild brookies.

**WILLOWEMOC CREEK**  
Wild brown trout are found throughout the Willowemoc. In summer, more are landed upstream, where the water stays cooler.

**BEAVER KILL**  
Birthplace of American fly fishing, the Beaverkill is divided into upper and lower sections, both with wild browns and rainbows. Find wild brookies in the upper section.

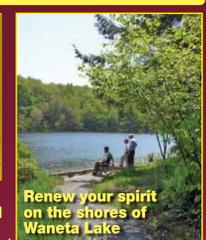
**EAST BRANCH DELAWARE RIVER**  
Below the Pepacton Reservoir, wild browns, rainbows and some brookies are found. Above the reservoir, browns are plentiful.

See [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9924.html) for more fishing spot information and maps.

# Accessible Adventures



Explore the trail at Little Pond Campground



Renew your spirit on the shores of Waneta Lake

**Seeking a leisurely, family-friendly way to enjoy the natural beauty and tranquility of the Catskill Park?** Many areas contain a full range of features that welcome people of all ages and abilities and are wheelchair accessible. The shore of Onteora Lake, near Kingston is the perfect place for a family picnic and includes a fishing platform and canoe launch. Or visit the quiet pond on Lower Birch Creek Rd, which has a wheelchair-accessible path around the pond to picnic tables. You will find campsites with accessible features in secluded areas as well as at our campgrounds.

**The Catskill Park truly has something for everyone.**

Call DEC's Regional Access Coordinators or the Universal Access Program in Albany at 518-402-9428 for trip-planning information. [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html)

Discover the view from the overlook at North-South Lake



Relax at the pond on Lower Birch Creek Rd near Pine Hill.



Relax at the pond on Lower Birch Creek Rd near Pine Hill.

# Water for the Big Apple...

Providing Great Places for Recreation

New York City gets nearly 90 percent of its drinking water from the Ashokan, Rondout, Cannonsville, Schoharie, Pepacton and Neversink reservoirs in the Catskill region. To protect that water, the city owns more than 125,000 acres of land around those waterbodies, including more than 40,000 acres in the Catskill Park.

## Hiking, Fishing, Hunting and Trapping

Many city-owned lands that adjoin state preserve lands in the Catskills are open for hiking, fishing, hunting and trapping and do not require a New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Access Permit. However, some city-owned lands, especially those close to the reservoirs, do require a free NYCDEP Access Permit. For more information [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep) and click on "Watershed Recreation."

## Fishing and Boating

All six reservoirs are open to fishing by permit. Fishing from a rowboat requires an access permit and boat tag, both of which are free. Anglers must have boats steam cleaned and store them at a designated storage area. Cannonsville, Schoharie, Pepacton and Neversink reservoirs are also open to canoes, kayaks, scullis and sailboats, which require a free permit and boat tag. Visit [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep), "Watershed Recreation," and then "Boating" for complete information.

# Trails

The Catskill Park offers more than 300 miles of well-marked and easily accessible trails, varying in length from less than a mile to a 94-mile section of the Long Path. Horseback riding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling trails are also available. Trail brochures are available at DEC's regional offices.

## BRING THE FAMILY

**Alder Lake Loop**  
Walk around a tranquil lake. Look for the beaver lodge and spotted newts swimming in the shallows. At sunset, rising trout ripple the surface.



**Onteora Lake Loop**  
Here teams of oxen once hauled ponderous wagonloads of bluestone used for sidewalks in Kingston and cities throughout the country.



**Kelly Hollow Loop**  
Stone walls testify to the history of farming here. Pine and spruce now tower over former fields. Rest at the lean-to overlooking the beaver pond.



**Boulder Ramble at North-South Lake**  
Discover huge boulders dropped by Ice Age glaciers, including Sunset Rock, overlooking the lake, and toothy-jawed Alligator Rock.



## HIKES THROUGH HISTORY

**Historic Hotels**  
Follow the Escarpment Trail past the sites of the Kaaterskill and Catskill Mountain House hotels, where presidents stayed during the 19th and early 20th centuries.



## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

**East Branch Neversink**  
Stroll through hemlocks beside one of the most famous, crystal-clear streams in the Catskills. Traverse the Phoenicia-East Branch Trail along the Neversink River.



**Vernoy Kill Falls**  
Relax by rock-lined waterfalls, splash in a swimming hole, explore the stone ruins of an old mill, or pitch a tent at a remote campsite.



## DRINK IN THE VIEW

**Giant Ledge**  
To access this wide panorama of the eastern Catskills, follow the Phoenicia-East Branch Trail to the Giant Ledge-Panther Trail.



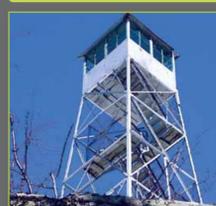
**Huckleberry Point**  
Enjoy views of Platte Clove, the Hudson Valley, and Devil's Path as vultures and squawking ravens trace lazy circles above.



**Belleayre: More than Great Skiing!**  
Winter sports enthusiasts have long flocked to Belleayre Mountain Ski Center in the heart of the Catskill Park for great alpine skiing and snowboarding. What you might not know is that Belleayre has much to offer during the other three seasons as well. Come visit during the snowless months and enjoy music and seasonal festivals, picnicking, swimming and boating. See [www.belleayre.com](http://www.belleayre.com) for all the details.

Information about other ski resorts in the Catskill Region is available at [www.skiandridenyc.com](http://www.skiandridenyc.com)

## FIRE TOWERS



**Historic fire towers** at Balsam Lake Mountain, Overlook Mountain, Hunter Mountain, Mt. Tremper and Red Hill are popular destinations. For more information, call 845-586-2611 or visit [www.catskillcenter.org](http://www.catskillcenter.org) (Programs tab).

## WINTER'S WONDERS



**Willowemoc Wild Forest**  
Lose yourself in snow-covered splendor while cross-country skiing or snowshoeing Willowemoc's more than 40 miles of trails. Snowmobilers are allowed on some trails, so take care when cross-country skiing.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING IN THE CATSKILL PARK

The Catskill Park offers challenging mountain biking trail networks amidst the striking scenery of NYSDEC forestlands: **Elm Ridge Wild Forest:** Greene County, north of the Village of Windham. This system has four miles of beginning/intermediate trails and two miles of advanced trails. **Bluestone Wild Forest:** Ulster County, west of Kingston. Ten miles and four marked trails provide an outstanding experience for cyclists of all abilities. The trailhead at Onteora Lake, easily accessed from Route 28, is the most popular. For more information: Fats in the Cats Bicycle Club [www.fatsintheats.com](http://www.fatsintheats.com)



# Planning Your Catskill Adventure

Discover the remote mountain villages, beautiful views, and steep river valleys that have made the Catskills a favorite tourist destination for generations.

## REGIONAL TOURISM

I LOVE NY  
[www.iloveny.com](http://www.iloveny.com)  
800-LOVENY (456-8369)  
Catskill Association for Tourism Services (CATS)  
[www.visitthecatskills.com](http://www.visitthecatskills.com)  
800-NYS-CATS (687-2287)

## LOCAL TOURISM

Delaware County  
866-776-9425  
[www.greatwesterncatskills.com](http://www.greatwesterncatskills.com)  
Greene County  
800-355-CATS (2287)  
[www.greatnortherncatskills.com](http://www.greatnortherncatskills.com)  
Sullivan County  
800-882-CATS (2287)  
[www.scvna.net](http://www.scvna.net)  
Ulster County  
800-342-5826  
[www.ulstercountyalive.com](http://www.ulstercountyalive.com)  
OUTDOOR RECREATION & EDUCATION  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)  
[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

DEC Emergency Search, Rescue and Fire Hotline  
518-408-5850  
DEC Regional Offices (See map for locations)  
Outdoor recreation and regulation information in areas managed by DEC, including recommendations, publications and licensed guides:  
DEC Region 3 New Paltz Office (Sullivan and Ulster counties)  
845-256-3076  
DEC Region 4 Stamford Office (Greene and Delaware counties)  
607-662-7365  
DEC Environmental Education Summer Camp  
Camp DeBruce - Livingston Manor  
[www.dec.ny.gov/education/1881.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1881.html)  
518-402-8014  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)  
[recreation@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:recreation@dep.nyc.gov)  
800-576-LAND (5263)  
[www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep)

See "Watershed Recreation" for information on:  
•Recreation Rules & Access Permits  
•Public Access Areas  
•Hiking, Fishing, Boating, Hunting & Trapping

## RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

Catskill Mountain Club  
[www.catskillmountainclub.org](http://www.catskillmountainclub.org)  
NY-NJ Trail Conference  
[www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)  
201-512-9348

## ATTRACTIONS

Catskill Interpretive Center  
NYS Route 28  
Mount Tremper  
[www.catskillinterpretivecenter.org](http://www.catskillinterpretivecenter.org)  
Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum  
Livingston Manor  
[www.cffcmt.net](http://www.cffcmt.net)  
845-439-4810

Empire State Railway Museum  
Phoenicia  
[www.esrm.com](http://www.esrm.com)  
845-688-7501

## GETTING THERE

By Bus:  
Adirondack Trailways/Pine Hill Trailways  
[www.trailwaysny.com](http://www.trailwaysny.com)  
800-776-7548  
Shortline  
[www.coachusa.com](http://www.coachusa.com)  
800-631-8405

## MAPS

The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development  
845-586-2611  
[www.catskillcenter.org](http://www.catskillcenter.org)  
NY-NJ Trail Conference  
201-512-9348  
[www.nynjtc.org](http://www.nynjtc.org)  
Adirondack Mountain Club  
800-395-8080  
[www.adck.org](http://www.adck.org) (search for "maps")  
National Geographic Maps  
Catskill Park #755  
800-437-5521  
[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

# Camping in the Catskills

Each of NYSDEC's eight Catskill campgrounds provides a perfect gateway to the mountains and regional attractions, with well-maintained, easily accessible sites for tents and trailers. All but Devil's Tombstone have showers and recreational programs. **General information: 518-457-2500; [www.dec-campgrounds.com](http://www.dec-campgrounds.com)** **Reservations: 800-456-CAMP (2267); [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)**

**North-South Lake** - This largest and most popular campground in the Catskill Park offers an extensive list of recreational activities. It also has a full range of accessible features, including horse-mounting platforms. County Route 18, Haines Falls, NY 12436  
518-589-5058 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24487.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24487.html)

**Devil's Tombstone** - This oldest Catskills campground has few amenities, but its high mountain location, midway along the rugged Devil's Path hiking trail, is popular with serious hikers. Nearby Hunter Mountain holds a variety of festivals from spring through fall. NYS Route 214, Hunter, NY 12442  
845-688-7160 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24462.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24462.html)

**Kenneth L. Wilson** - Surrounded by picturesque mountains, the large, wooded sites here are just five miles from the famous Village of Woodstock. Enjoy shopping and entertainment there, or tubing and trout fishing on the equally famous Esopus Creek in nearby Phoenicia. 859 Wittenberg Road, Mt. Tremper, NY 12467  
845-679-7020 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24472.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24472.html)

**Woodland Valley** - Nestled below Slide Mountain, the Catskills' highest peak, this campground is also a trailhead for popular hiking trails. Other attractions are similar to those for Kenneth L. Wilson. 1319 Woodland Valley Road, Phoenicia, NY 12464  
845-688-7647 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24501.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24501.html)

**Little Pond** - Stroll around the pond, explore the ruins of an old farm and marvel at the view from Touchment Mountain. There is primitive camping at remote sites. Wheelchair-accessible fishing pier. 549 Little Pond State Campground Road, Andes, NY 13731  
845-439-5480 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24478.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24478.html)

**Mongaup Pond** - This campground offers a variety of water recreation on its large pond. A remote location with large wooded sites, many of which are wheelchair accessible. Don't miss a side trip to NYSDEC's nearby Catskill Fish Hatchery. 231 Mongaup Pond Road, Livingston Manor, NY 12758  
845-439-4233 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24484.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24484.html)

**Beaver Kill** - The famous Beaver Kill, popular for trout fishing, flows through this campground, which is complete with a covered bridge. Other attractions are similar to those for Mongaup Pond. 792 Berybrook Road Spur, Roscoe, NY 12776  
845-439-4281 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24455.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24455.html)

**Bear Spring Mountain** - Just outside the park's westernmost boundary, this campground offers unique features for horseback riding, with 24 stalls, a horse trailer ramp, and 24 miles of multi-use trails. Launt Pond has a beach, boat rentals, and excellent fishing there or at nearby Trout Brook. 512 East Trout Brook Road, Downsville, NY 13755  
607-865-6989 [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24454.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/24454.html)



