

# 2008 Report to NYS Conservation Council from Division of Operations

*Division Mission: Provide technical services, facilities management, and maintenance of physical assets to ensure effective and efficient operation of the Department and safe public use of DEC lands and facilities.*

## Connect New Yorkers to Nature

Provide recreational opportunities - The Bureau of Recreation's 52 campgrounds and 7 day use areas were enjoyed by over 1,700,000 visitors during the summer of 2007. The Belleayre Mountain Ski Center had a record-breaking year, hosting over 180,000 skier's during the 07-08 season. The Nature Recreation Program provided nature based programming to over 35,000 visitors at nine campgrounds. Over 7,500 young visitors completed the Junior Naturalist Program and earned a patch.



Campers at North South Lake

Advance the Catskill and Five Rivers interpretive center projects - Proposals for design and engineering services for both centers were reviewed and consultant teams were selected in June 2008. It is expected that contracts to commence the designs will be awarded in October 2008.

Enhance department facilities - Construction of shower buildings is ongoing at the new Scaroon Manor Campground. Bids will be received in September for a new Shower Building at Meacham Lake Campground and Little Sand Point Campground with completion in fall 2009. Contracts are in the approval stage for a new electrical system at the Rollins Pond Campground. Regulatory approval is anticipated to proceed with a shoreline stabilization project in the Fish Creek Campground for construction in Fall 2009. The sewer system reconstruction was completed at the Meacham Lake and Poke O Moonshine Campgrounds. A cooperative agreement is being developed with the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation to establish Camp Berle within the Harriman State Park. Design work and preliminary site preparations are proceeding to open this new Environmental Education Facility next year. Construction of the Stillwater Reservoir Boat Launch Site was completed. The boat launch site at the Indian Lake Campground is now open with final



Skiers at Belleayre Mountain

completion anticipated in September. Regulatory approval is anticipated for the City of Plattsburgh BLS so that construction can begin in Fall 2009. Final approval of the Hudson River at Moreau BLS is on hold is pending the outcome of additional archeological surveys at the site. Design work is proceeding for Boat Launch Sites at the Raquette River (Crusher) BLS and Mattituck Creek BLS. Snowmobile Bridge Projects are planned this fall at Wilmington Notch Campground and Mossy Vly site at Perkins Clearing utilizing the Forest Preserve Design approved by APA. Vehicle Bridge designs are in preliminary stages for Fish Creek Bridge in the Crogan Tract Easement; Alder Brook Bridge in the Santa Clara Tract; and the Long Pond State Forest. Work is proceeding at Belleayre to construct a new Maintenance Center Building to replace the existing one that has structural problems. The Johns Brook Bridge replacement reestablished a key link in the hiking trail network of the eastern High Peaks. The restoration of Crown Point Pier is underway to repair severely deteriorated concrete to restore this historic pier and provide fishing and viewing access to Lake Champlain. Work has been completed for the backup generator and residence garage structure at the Van Hornesville Fish Hatchery. Contracts are in place for the replacement of primary electric switch gear at Salmon River. Work will begin this fall during cooler weather. A new well was also drilled at Salmon River and put into service with a temporary pump. The permanent pump will be installed in late Fall 2008. Work has started at the Rome Fish Hatchery to cover two pond series with a wooden enclosure to stop bird predation. Design work is progressing for a new Rearing Building at Rome. At Reynolds Game Farm, a water line was installed to the remote pheasant pens to provide a permanent water supply. A generator was also furnished to facilitate the feed operations. Modifications were completed in the Brooder building to improve building ventilation and lighting, and install electric brooders.



Maintenance Center at Belleayre

Improve access to state facilities for persons with disabilities - Construction was completed for the Region 5 Phase III ADA project. This included improvements at Lake Colby FAS, Second Pond FAS, Whey Pond FAS, Upper Saranac BLS and Raquette River BLS. Construction has been completed at the South Bay Fishing Pier on Lake Champlain. This project provides 300 feet of accessible fishing pier with a covered structure on the end of it. The Bureau's Region 5 staff worked closely with the Department's ADA Coordinator to improve accessibility by developing accessible camp sites on the Black Mountain shoreline. At Belleayre Mountain, work is proceeding on an Adaptive Snowsports Building which will house special equipment to take snowsports to the



South Bay Fishing Pier

next level of accessibility.

## **Safeguard New York's Unique Natural Assets**

Complete UMPs for all facilities managed by the Division - Planning and preliminary design is proceeding on the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Unit Management Plan for Belleayre Ski Mountain Ski Center. Unit Management Plans are in process for 7 other recreation facilities.



Colgate Lake Dam

Implement invasive species response plans - All campgrounds are being inspected annually by staff for early detection of invasive terrestrial plants and then followed up by eradication. Information kiosks and invasive species drop boxes were constructed and installed this season at boat launch sites throughout the state. Staff participated in the drafting of a regulation to prevent the spread of invasive species caused by the transport of firewood. Campground staff have received awareness training and are distributing information to campers about the dangers of moving firewood.

Reconstruct dams - At Colgate Lake in the Blackhead Range Wild Forest, construction of a replacement dam has been completed. At Perch River WMA, dam modifications are well along to provide an adjustable outlet structure to be able to manage water levels. At Little Pond Campground, reconstruction of two deficient dams is anticipated to begin after Labor Day with completion anticipated by next spring. At Calico Pond in the Gee Brook State Forest, design has been completed for the breach of the deficient dam. A rehabilitation of McGregor Dam, Clinton County, is underway. When construction is completed Miner Lake will be restored to near its' original level.



Restoration of Crown Point Pier

Habitat improvement - Design work is progressing for the Tallapoosa and Turtle Cove wetland improvement projects within the Pelham Bay Park in NYC.

## **Work for Environmental Justice**

Grants program - Staff reviewed EJ Community Impact Grant Program applications to award funding to community organizations to address environmental and human health impacts in their neighborhoods.

## Combat Climate Change

Climate registry - The Department has joined the Carbon Registry as a founding reporter in New York. Our Division is working with the DEC Office of Climate Change to benchmark our carbon footprint and report to the Registry. We will be using this data to analyze our carbon contributions, identify additional reduction opportunities, and further reduce our carbon footprint.

Reduce carbon footprint - The Division of Operations is taking action to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions of our infrastructure. We are performing comprehensive energy audits of our facilities, and performing capital improvement projects to reduce both energy consumption and emissions.



Reconstructed footbridge over  
Johns Brook

## Partnerships and the Public

Energy Efficiency - The Division of Operations is actively working with numerous State Agencies to promote energy efficiency, combat climate change and increase sustainable operations across the State. We have representatives on several interagency teams including: the Advisory Council on Energy Efficiency for Executive Order 111, the Interagency Committee on Sustainability and Green Procurement for Executive Order 4, the Green Building Collaborative and others.

Education - We place a high value on public education in all of our environmental sustainability efforts. Our LEED rated green buildings are equipped with educational displays highlighting the building's green features and promoting public sustainability. We are assisting other Departmental Programs in developing various education opportunities at the State Fair and at our Education Centers. The Division of Operations has reached out to local colleges, including HVCC and RPI, to establish a solid connection and work together on projects focusing on alternative energy and high efficiency lighting.



Reinstein Woods Visitor Center is  
awaiting LEED certification

## **Sustainability of DEC's Own Operations**

Building sustainability - New construction and substantial renovation projects are designed and constructed to green building standards. We currently have eight such projects in design, under construction or completed that are expected to attain LEED status. These buildings are designed to use substantially less energy and have a lower carbon footprint than conventional buildings.

Energy conservation - We are continuing to work with Authorities and Utilities to implement peak-load reduction programs. Advanced monitoring systems, on-site renewable power systems and emergency power reduction programs are being installed or implemented.

Sustainable operations - Division staff are participating on the Department's internal Sustainability Work Group. This is a multi-disciplinary group charged with increasing sustainable operations and outreach of our Department. The Division of Operations co-chairs this team, and plays an active role in its ongoing success in "greening" our infrastructure and Programs.

Increase the fuel efficiency of DEC's fleet - We are working to minimize the carbon footprint of DEC's fleet through the purchase of alternative fueled (hybrid & flex fuel) vehicles. Last year the Department purchased 98 alternative fueled vehicles. Taking action to insure appropriate sized vehicles are purchased. Expanding the use of biodiesel fuel at DEC facilities. During the last year over 38,000 gallons of biodiesel fuel was used and this is expected to increase in the future. Initiating action to retrofit DEC's heavy duty diesel vehicles with the best available technology to reduce emissions.



Toyota Prius hybrid vehicle

Use of environmentally friendly cleaning products - In compliance with Executive Order #134, the division is purchasing and using cleaning products listed by OGS to be environmentally friendly at all facilities.