



5,000+
miles of
formal trails



55+
campgrounds
and day-use
areas



**ADVENTURE
NEW YORK**

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

Department of
Environmental
Conservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO, GOVERNOR | BASIL SEGGOS, COMMISSIONER



132
universally
accessible sites
(campsites, fishing piers,
trails, horse mounts, etc.)



Nearly
5 million
acres of public
lands managed
by DEC



400+
boating and
fishing facilities



A MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER SEGGOS



New York's breathtaking natural resources are unique, abundant and open to everyone. And thanks to Governor Cuomo, the state has expanded the amount of public lands across New York and will be improving outdoor facilities to provide easier access and additional amenities.

As Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), I take pride in our agency's efforts to connect people to the outdoors. The opportunities abound, from hunting and fishing, to hiking and rock climbing, swimming and boating, or simply relaxing in a tent under the stars.

Under Governor Cuomo's new Adventure NY program, DEC will be making critical upgrades to State campgrounds and facilities to better serve people who want to enjoy our outdoors. Whether you are planning your first outdoor trip or are an avid outdoor enthusiast, we think you'll appreciate the improvements we're making.

The Governor understands the importance of both protecting our natural resources and providing opportunities for people to enjoy them. DEC plays a vital role in these efforts, and we look forward to providing a premier outdoor experience for all residents and visitors.

I encourage you to discover the excitement of the outdoors, available everywhere in New York. DEC looks forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Basil Seggos



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Connecting New York State's families & visitors to **THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

New York State is blessed with an abundance of rich natural resources that provide outdoor recreation opportunities of every type for everyone. What will your adventure be?

Adventure NY was announced in Governor Cuomo's 2017 State of the State message. It's a multi-year outdoor recreation campaign to connect more New York families and visitors to the great outdoors. To provide for even better user experience this new initiative includes \$50 million in FY 2017 to expand on existing efforts to support outdoor recreation. DEC is using this funding to make investments to improve public access to state land and water, upgrade campgrounds and facilities, and increase public awareness and information of all the outdoor recreation opportunities available in New York State.

Through Adventure NY, DEC is:

- 1. Expanding access to healthy, active outdoor recreation.**
- 2. Connecting people with nature and the outdoors.**
- 3. Protecting New York's natural resources.**
- 4. Boosting local economies.**

Outdoor recreation is an important part of our state's rich heritage, and we will continue to provide opportunities to ensure that current and future generations can fully experience New York's unique and diverse resources.

So go outside, and find an adventure. You'll find new boat launches, duck blinds and hiking trails. Well-worn youth camps and education centers are getting face-lifts. There's no end to the opportunities you'll find.



Watchable Wildlife

Want to see soaring eagles? Spectacular moose? Playful river otters, skeins of migrating waterfowl, lounging seals or breaching whales? New York's the place.

New York State has some of the most diverse wildlife habitat in the nation. From the rocky peaks of the Adirondacks to the coastal lowlands along Long Island Sound, the Great Lakes to the Appalachian highlands, NY's fields, forests, marshes, mountains, beaches, lakes and rivers are home to hundreds of species of animals. Almost anywhere you are in the state, there are nearby places to experience this rich natural heritage. Wildlife can be found in abundance and enjoyed with binoculars or camera in hand. Initiatives like I BIRD NY make it easy to get started.

FEATURED SITES



Utica Marsh WMA

This unique urban wetland harbors a tremendous variety of plants and animals, especially birds. A new wildlife viewing tower provides a bird's eye view of the wildlife abundant at this Wildlife Management Area (WMA).



Mongaup Valley

The bald eagle is the star of this 10,000-acre wilderness. Migrating raptors, owls, scrubland birds, wetland birds and waterfowl have also been observed in this landscape of forested rolling hills, deeply dissected by streams and rivers.



Montezuma

These expansive wetlands are a birder's paradise and one of the busiest stops for migrating birds on the Atlantic Flyway, particularly waterfowl. An estimated 1 million birds representing more than 240 species pass through each year.



Wildlife watching is a popular recreational activity that can be enjoyed year-round anywhere in the state by people of all ages and abilities.



Bird Conservation Areas are special places created to protect and enhance bird populations and their habitats on state lands and waters.

With thousands of acres of open space and natural habitat set aside, New York is the perfect place for people to enjoy observing, studying or photographing wildlife.





Canoeing, Kayaking & Boating

With more than 7,500 lakes, ponds and reservoirs, 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, 975 square miles of saltwater, and two Great Lakes, New York is an ideal destination for water-lovers. Canoe on a secluded Adirondack pond. Go kayaking through whitewater rapids on the upper Hudson River. Enjoy a lazy summer float trip down the Battenkill or Esopus Rivers. Paddleboard on a glass-smooth lake. Explore a Great Lake shoreline in a sea kayak. Take in a bluebird day under sail power. Windsurf along the Long Island coast. Soak in the scenery in the Thousand Islands. Combine the outdoors with history along our famed canals. It's all here in New York State.

FEATURED SITES



Long Island Sound

The Long Island Sound Estuary is home to more than 1,200 species of invertebrates, 170 species of fish, and dozens of species of migratory birds. Adventurers can enjoy the Sound's beaches, bays and ports, easily accessible for a day trip from NYC. The calm waters of the Sound's embayment provide a perfect place for paddlers to fish, swim, observe wildlife, and view the expansive marshes, beaches, and bluffs. Many marinas and state and local parks provide the public with access to boat ramps and kayak launches.



Boreas Ponds

Seven lakes and ponds reside within the largest Wilderness Area in the Adirondack Park. Completely surrounded by Forest Preserve, Boreas Ponds offers spectacular views of the North River and Boreas Mountain ranges. The mountains of the High Peaks Wilderness can be seen from a number of locations. The Boreas Ponds provide premier opportunity for paddling and support a cold-water fishery with brook trout. Bird-watchers will delight in sightings of the common loon, great blue heron, belted kingfisher, wood duck and more.



Delaware River

Steeped in history and dripping with scenic beauty, the Upper Delaware River was one of the first Scenic and Recreational Rivers in the US. Its 79 miles are known for outstanding fishing, paddling, rafting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Canoe through rapids and quiet pools as the Delaware River winds its way through a valley of swiftly changing scenery or fish amid rolling hills and riverfront villages. DEC maintains five public boat launch sites along the river. Several liveries provide access to the river as well and rent canoes, kayaks and rafts.



With numerous big waters like the Finger Lakes and Lakes George, Champlain, Erie and Ontario, as well as the coastal waters off Long Island, New York is a boater's paradise.



More than 500 public boating access sites across the state make getting on the water easy.

If quiet backwaters interest you, New York has thousands of lakes and ponds to explore. Many lakes, ponds and streams in the Forest Preserves are restricted to nonmotorized boating.





Hiking, Biking & More

With nearly 5 million acres of land open to the public, and thousands of miles of trails for hikers of all abilities, New York is a hiker's paradise. From breathtaking mountain views to the wooded southern tier, and from remote mountain ponds to miles and miles of coastline, what better way to see and experience New York's diverse landscape than through hiking? Whether you want to hike a section of the Appalachian Trail, hike the Northville Placid trail end to-end, or just take the family out for an afternoon adventure, New York has it all. Rock climb in the Gunks, stroll the dunes of Long Island or Lake Ontario, take on the Long Path, or follow a path through history on the North Country National Scenic Trail. The possibilities are endless.

FEATURED SITES



Rock City Nature Trail

This 0.7-mile loop features a cave and a formation of large rocks with narrow pathways between them, resembling streets in a "rock city." The path also intersects a segment of the seven-state North Country National Scenic Trail.



Kelly Hollow

These trails in the Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest include a 1.9-mile loop known as the "Short Loop" and a 3.8-mile loop known as the "Beaver Pond Loop." The trail includes many interesting features including a scenic waterfall, beautiful streams, ponds, and a lean-to for camping.

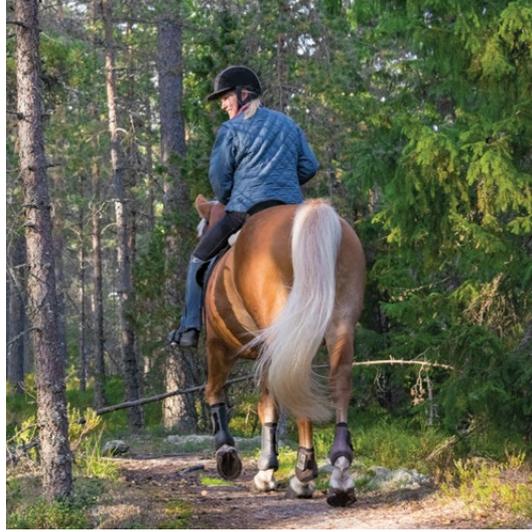


Goodman Mountain

The first quarter mile of this trail is wheelchair accessible and ideal for families with young children and people with limited mobility. The trail then steepens before turning sharply and ascending to the 2,176-foot summit, where hikers can enjoy scenic views of the Adirondacks.



Hiking can be a fun, relaxing way to spend the day outdoors with friends and family.



New York has thousands of miles of recreational trails available for hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Many hiking trails in New York lead to a waterfall, a cool respite on a summer day.





Fishing

New York has some of the finest fishing in the country. There is world-class fishing for a wide variety of coldwater, warmwater and saltwater fish species. Whether it's bass fishing on Lake Erie, brook trout fishing on a crystal clear Adirondack lake, Pacific salmon fishing on Lake Ontario, fishing for stripers on the Hudson River, brown trout fishing on the Beaver Kill, or fishing for bluefish in Montauk's surf, there's something special here for everyone. With more than 7,500 lakes, ponds and reservoirs, 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, and hundreds of miles of coastline, fishing opportunities are always nearby.

Each year anyone can fish New York waters without a fishing license on the last full weekend in June, Veterans Day, National Hunting and Fishing Day (4th Saturday in September) or the weekend immediately preceding President's Day. It's the perfect time to introduce someone to this wonderful sport.

FEATURED SITES



Chautauqua Lake

At 1,308 feet above sea level, Chautauqua Lake is one of the highest navigable waters in North America. It offers exceptional fishing for walleye, bass, muskellunge and several species of panfish.



Lake Champlain

Often called the "Sixth Great Lake," Lake Champlain is shared with Vermont and the Province of Quebec. Best known for its fantastic largemouth bass and smallmouth bass fishing, Lake Champlain also provides quality fishing for northern pike, lake trout, Atlantic salmon, channel catfish, yellow perch and a variety of panfish species.



Niagara River

The river is comprised of two parts, the Upper and Lower Niagara, separated at Niagara Falls. The lower river is well known for its Chinook salmon, steelhead (rainbow trout) and walleye fishing. The Upper Niagara River provides one of the finest muskellunge fisheries in the country.



Anglers catch a wide variety of coldwater and warmwater fish species, including popular game species such as bass, walleye and trout.



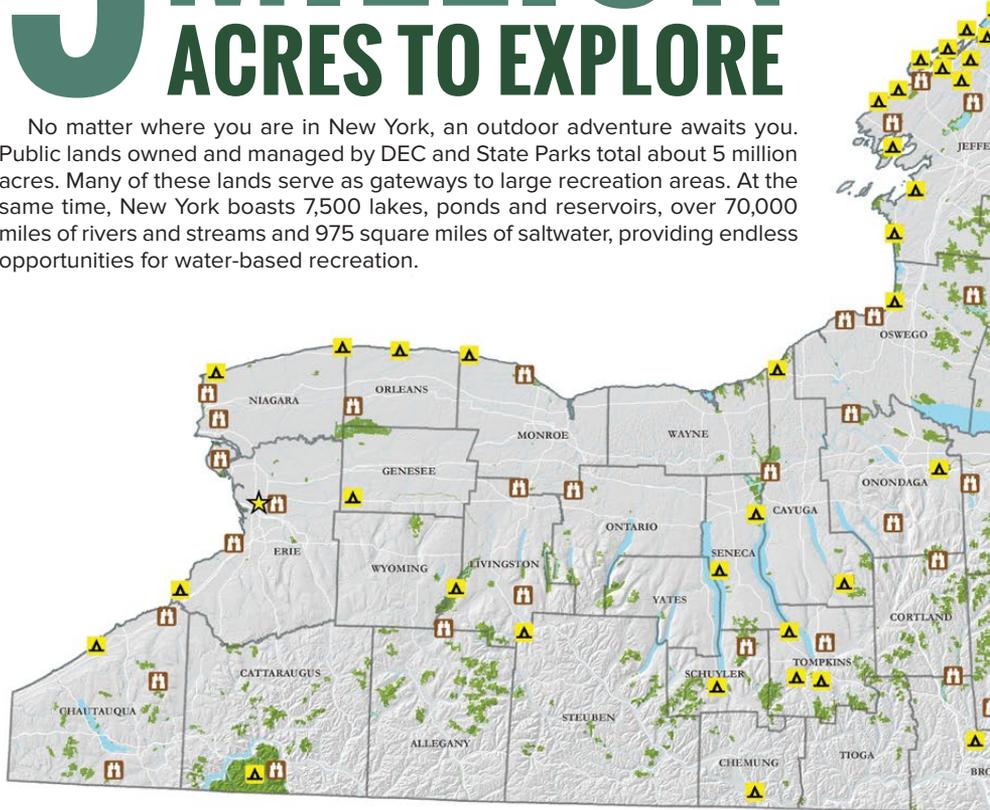
Long Island is ideally situated so that both southern and northern fish species frequent our waters.

New York abounds with fishing opportunities on its more than 7,500 lakes and ponds, 70,000 miles of rivers and streams, and hundreds of miles of coastline.



5 MILLION ACRES TO EXPLORE

No matter where you are in New York, an outdoor adventure awaits you. Public lands owned and managed by DEC and State Parks total about 5 million acres. Many of these lands serve as gateways to large recreation areas. At the same time, New York boasts 7,500 lakes, ponds and reservoirs, over 70,000 miles of rivers and streams and 975 square miles of saltwater, providing endless opportunities for water-based recreation.



5,000+ miles
of formal trails

132 universally
accessible
sites
(campsites, fishing piers,
trails, horse mounts, etc.)

300+ lean-
tos

12 fish
hatcheries

1,280 miles
of public fishing rights
on 350 streams

400+ boating
& fishing
facilities

1,700 primitive
campsites
for backcountry camping

55+ camp-
grounds
and day-use areas

357 trail-
heads



Hunting

Hunting is among the most popular forms of outdoor recreation in New York. That's because New York has an incredible variety of habitats and a wealth of public land. From the Catskill and the Adirondack Parks to the Finger Lakes and Great Lakes regions, from coastal lowlands to agricultural lake plains to craggy mountain peaks, our diverse habitat makes the Empire State an ideal hunting destination. In fact, New York is the seventh most popular hunting destination in the nation. Whether in pursuit of big game, small game, game birds or waterfowl, New York hunters enjoy great trips afield.

FEATURED SITES



Tug Hill State Forest and WMA

More than 17,000 acres of mixed mature and successional forest habitats are open to pursue small game such as Ruffed Grouse and varying hare. White-tailed deer are commonly hunted throughout the forest and WMA and can provide a wilderness-like hunting experience.



Capital District WMA

This nearly 4,000-acre property features an Adirondack microclimate and provides a unique hunting experience on the Rensselaer Plateau in eastern New York. Mature hardwood and softwood stands, young forests and numerous wetlands are present. Habitat management focuses on enhancing habitats for ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, and moose, all of which will also benefit white-tailed deer and black bear hunting opportunities in the area.



Hanging Bog WMA

Management of this WMA is focused on creating a wide variety of forest and shrub habitats to benefit wildlife, but especially early successional species like Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock. A patient hunter may also encounter black bear while hunting the 7,200 acres of state owned lands.



More than 230,000 acres of WMAs and 787,000 acres of state forests afford bountiful hunting opportunities and experiences all across NY.



New York's Young Forest Initiative is increasing the diversity of wildlife habitat for game and non-game species.

White-tailed deer, wild turkey, migratory waterfowl, ruffed grouse, pheasant, black bear, cottontail rabbit, grey squirrel, and many more abound in New York's forests, fields, and wetlands.





Camping

New York State is loaded with public campgrounds and campsites that are available for everyone, no matter their skill level or age. Whether it's pitching a tent in the back country, renting a cabin in the woods, or anything in between, New York has it all. From the Thousand Islands to the High Peaks of the Adirondacks, to the Finger Lake shores and the salt marshes of Long Island, camping lets you experience firsthand New York's tremendous scenic beauty. Campers have their choice of 113 campgrounds with more than 10,000 campsites, with associated activities that range from swimming, paddling, bicycling, fishing, hiking, and boating, to wildlife exploration, winter sports, and much more. Many of the campsites are located near parks, golf courses, historic sites, and other family-friendly destinations. A New York State camping getaway truly has something for everyone.

FEATURED SITES



Mongaup Pond

Mongaup Pond offers the largest body of water in the Catskill State Park and boasts large, wooded campsites. Swimming, boating, fishing, and hiking are all popular activities here, and the campground offers accessible sites and facilities.



North South Lake

This is the largest and most popular state campground in the Catskill Forest Preserve offering extraordinary beauty. Several lakes are located within the campground and swimming is available, along with paddling and paddle boarding. Numerous hiking trails lead to spectacular overlooks, waterfalls, and historic sights.



Scaroon Manor

One of DEC's newest state campgrounds, Scaroon Manor is located on the west shore of Schroon Lake. Campers can canoe, kayak or swim. Hiking trails are nearby and Schroon Lake offers great fishing including lake trout, largemouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, and pickerel.



Whether you're looking for a scenic spot to picnic for the day, or planning a weeklong camping adventure, NYS campgrounds are a perfect choice.



Nothing beats the camaraderie from making s'mores and singing songs around the campfire. Make your memories today.

New York campgrounds provide a wide variety of experiences, including island camping, tent and trailer camping, backcountry camping, hiking trails, beaches and day-use areas with picnic tables and grills.





Exploring & Learning

DEC properties are home to nature centers, fish hatcheries, youth camps, and self-guided interpretive trails. With so many diverse properties across the state, visitors have plenty of opportunities to explore and learn about our natural world. Our education centers have interpretive trails and creative and engaging exhibits, and offer environmental education and recreation programs all year round for children, families, adults, and school groups. DEC summer camps combine environmental education and outdoor recreation into an adventurous experience. DEC's fish hatcheries provide visitors an opportunity to observe firsthand what happens inside a working hatchery and the role these facilities play in maintaining native species and enhancing recreational fishing. Come meet the experts and learn about New York's natural world and how you can help be an environmental steward.

FEATURED SITES



Salmon River Fish Hatchery

This hatchery provides all of New York's portion

of Pacific salmon stocked in the Great Lakes. Welcoming 50,000 visitors each year, the hatchery provides a fun and educational opportunity for the public to learn about how DEC manages this world-class fishery.



Five Rivers Environmental Education Center

For 45 years, Five Rivers has served as a living museum of forests, fields, ponds and wetlands. The new Visitor Center expands opportunities to develop a lifelong connection to nature and the outdoors. Walk the trails, attend a program, or participate with a school group learning about the environment.



Reinstein Woods Environmental Education Center

This center is located on a unique 292-acre complex of forests, ponds, and wetlands just outside the city of Buffalo. Stop by to explore and discover nature. Take a free guided tour of the woods, go on a snowshoe or ski adventure, or visit during the popular fall nature festival.





Accessible Recreation

New York welcomes visitors of all abilities to explore outdoor recreation on state land and is committed to providing an ever-increasing range of accessible opportunities which support a healthy quality of life. Many of our facilities are designed for “Universal Access,” providing recreation opportunities for the oldest adult to the youngest child, and everyone in between, including people with disabilities. Visitors to New York’s accessible facilities can enjoy fishing, boating, hunting, paddling, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, visiting historic assets, wildlife observation, and camping. Improvements on state land invite families with children in strollers and people with mobility issues to visit, and a variety of communication methods are used to include people with hearing or sight disabilities. Stated simply, New York’s focus is on inclusion.

FEATURED SITES



Kenneth Wilson Campground

This centrally located campground, surrounded by beautiful Catskill mountains with panoramic views, includes many accessible features: nature trail with wildlife viewing platform, fishing platform, floating canoe/kayak launch, and renovated comfort stations.



Birdseye Hollow/ Sanford Lake

Follow an accessible path at scenic Birdseye Hollow Park from the picnic area to a floating fishing pier with benches along the way. Take the Forest Stewardship Auto Tour to discover how forests grow. Sanford Lake has an accessible path from the parking lot, past a picnic area, down to the accessible breakwall along the shoreline. An accessible path leads to a floating canoe/kayak launch.



Willie Wildlife Marsh

Just an hour from Albany, the Willie Wildlife Interpretive Trail is a hidden treasure and was recently upgraded to make the 1.5-mile foot trail, boardwalks, viewing platform, and picnic area accessible.



START PLANNING YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

Use the links and resources below to get started on your next outdoor adventure in New York State.



WATCHABLE WILDLIFE

- **Getting started:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/55423.html
- **I Bird NY:**
www.ibirdny.gov



HUNTING

Residents and nonresidents are required to have a hunting license in NYS if you are 12 years of age or older and using a firearm or bow to hunt or take wild game. All first-time hunters must pass one or more courses before they can get a hunting license in New York.

- **Getting started:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/hunting.html
- **Obtaining a hunting license:**
www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6094.html



CANOEING, KAYAKING & BOATING

- **Getting started:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/349.html
- **Boating regulations and safety:**
<https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/>



FISHING

All residents and non-residents 16 years of age or older are required to have a fishing license in NYS.

- **Getting started:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/fishing.html
- **Obtaining a fishing license:**
www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6091.html



HIKING, BIKING & MORE

- **Hiking:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/351.html
- **Horseback riding:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/101037.html
- **Bicycling:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/101033.html
- **Skiing and snowshoeing:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/353.html
- **Snowmobiling:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7718.html
- **Rock and ice climbing:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/101035.html
- **Geocaching:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/98952.html
- **Places to go:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82098.html



CAMPING

- **Getting started:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/camping.html
- **First-time Camper Program:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/109909.html



EXPLORING & LEARNING

- **Education centers and programs:**
www.dec.ny.gov/education/74.html
- **Fish hatcheries:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7742.html
- **Youth summer camps:**
www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html



ACCESSIBLE RECREATION

- **Getting started:**
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html





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FISHING, HUNTING, & WILDLIFE APP

MORE INFO AT:

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor





12
fish
hatcheries



1,280
miles of public
fishing rights on
350 streams



1,700
primitive
campsites for
backcountry
camping



357
trailheads



300+
lean-tos



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