

NYS Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2020-2025

**Tuesday July 16, 2019
1-3 p.m.**



**NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.**

**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Today's Presentation

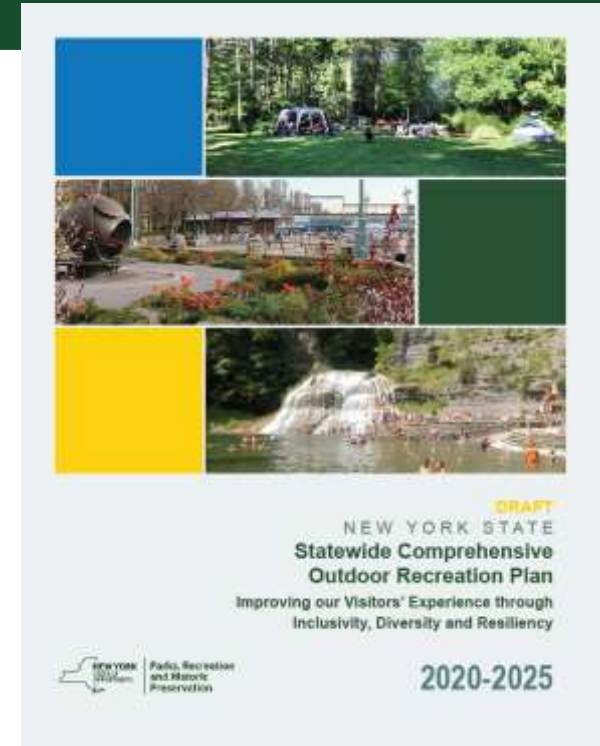
- What is the SCORP?
- History and purpose of the *Land and Water Conservation Act*
- Recreation resources in NYS
- Methodology behind data collection on the State's recreation resources
- Public comments



What is the SCORP?

- Statewide Park and Recreation Plan
- Satisfies eligibility requirement for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance
- Provides direction on statewide outdoor recreation policy
- Identifies areas of recreational need
- Fulfills OPRHP's recreation and preservation mandate

Draft 2020-25 SCORP



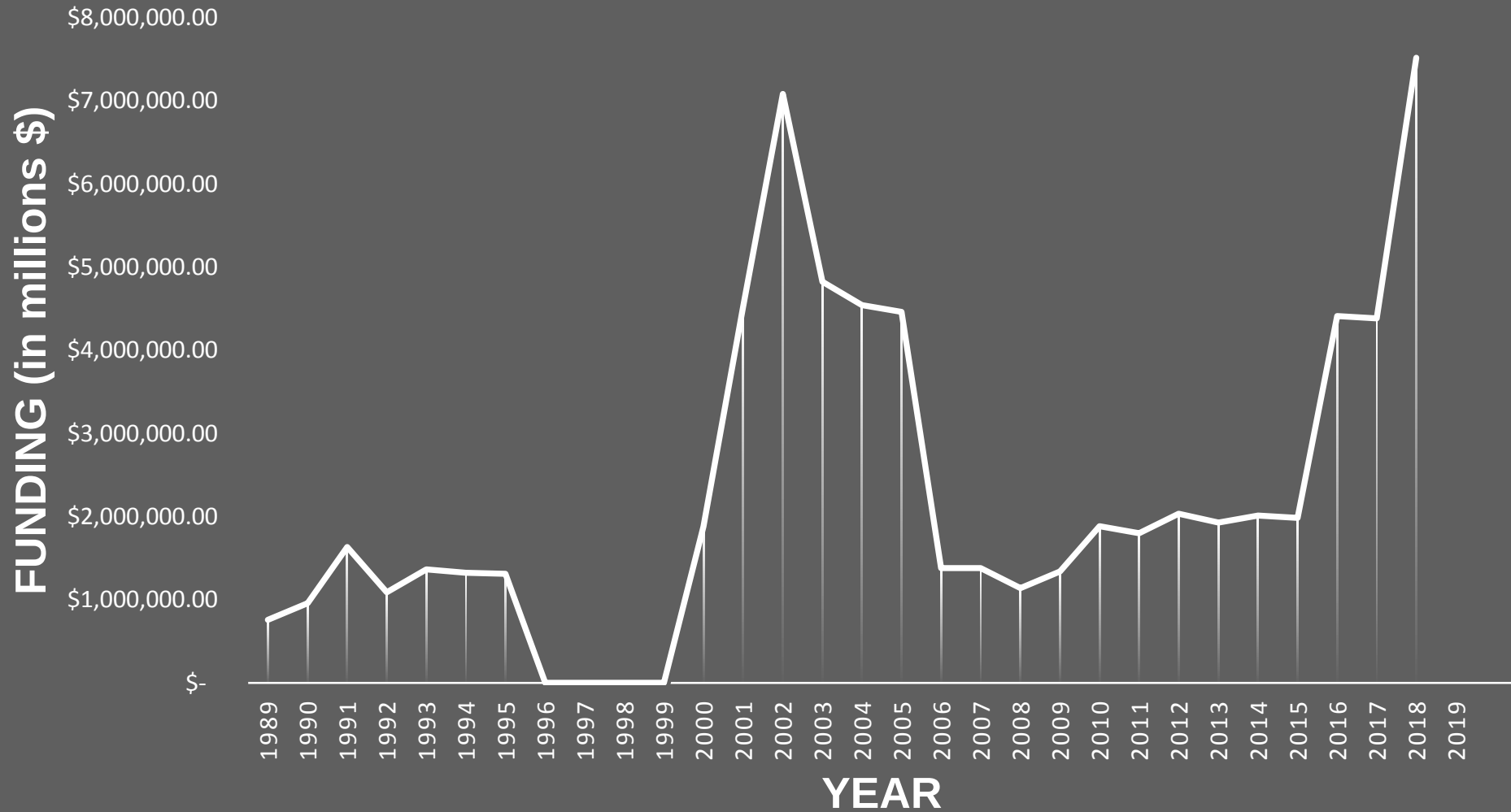
Land and Water Conservation Act



The Land and Water Conservation Act established:

- Matching grants to state and local governments for recreation planning, acquisition and development
- Requirements for state planning, including the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs)

LWCF Funding 1989 to 2018



LWCF Funding

Since its inception, the LWCF program has:

- invested more than \$336 million in State and municipal acquisition and development projects
- funded more than 1,300 projects and
- funded at least one project in every county



*Allegany State Park
Quaker Area Bathhouse Project
LWCF Grant #36-01318*

SCORP Content by Chapter

1. Introduction and Benefits of Outdoor Recreation
 2. State Outdoor Recreation System
 3. Trends, Issues, and Needs
 4. Recreation and Resiliency
 5. Goals and Recommendations
 6. Funding and Grant Allocation
 7. Environmental Impacts
- Appendices



Changes from 2014-2019 SCORP

- Focus on climate change (Chap. 4) and resiliency strategies
- Updated data based on public outreach (Chap. 3)
- New program listings and funding sources (Chap. 6 and Appendix D)
- Strategies for outdoor recreation providers in NYS



Hither Hills State Park – post-Hurricane Sandy restoration work



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State Outdoor Recreation System

- State Parks and Historic Sites
- State Lands and Forests
- Forest Preserve
(Adirondacks and Catskills)
- Wildlife Conservation Areas
- Empire State Trail
- other agencies with land management responsibilities
(APA, Canal Corp., DOT, OGS, and ORDA)



Recreation in New York



OPRHP administers:

- 189 state parks;
- 35 historic sites;
- 30 nature centers;
- 67 guarded beaches;
- 34 swimming pools;
- 23 marinas;
- 26 golf courses;
- more than 950 cabins, cottages and rental houses;
- 8,555 campsites;
- and more than 2,000 miles of trails



Programs & Initiatives

- Open space
- Coastal resources
- Trails and greenways
- Water access and recreation
- Invasive species
- Fish and wildlife
- Biodiversity
- Farmland protection
- Sports and athletics
- Health
- Aging
- Accessibility



Trends, Issues and Needs



*Pickleball For All: The Cross-Generational
Power of Play (NPR)*

Photo provided by Peru Pickleball



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Trends

- Population – minimal growth
- Aging – Baby Boomers
- Youth – less time outdoors - distracted by electronics
- Urban Areas – growing and revitalizing
- Climate Change – environmental & recreation resources
- Technology – park, security & visitor use management
- Recreation – need more trails for walking/hiking/biking

Recreation Facilities Inventory System (RFIS)

- NYS Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory
- Number and Location
- Size and Type
- Over 15,700 sites
- Includes State, Federal, county, municipal facilities, and facilities operated by nonprofits & private sector

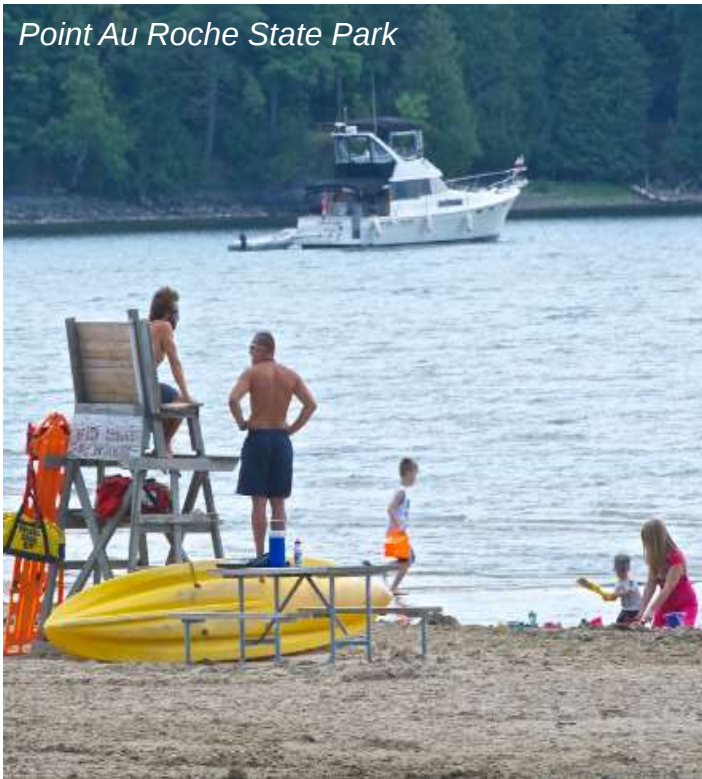


Recreation Demand

Public Outdoor Recreation Survey (PORS)

- Contracted with SurveyMonkey
- 10,096 surveys completed

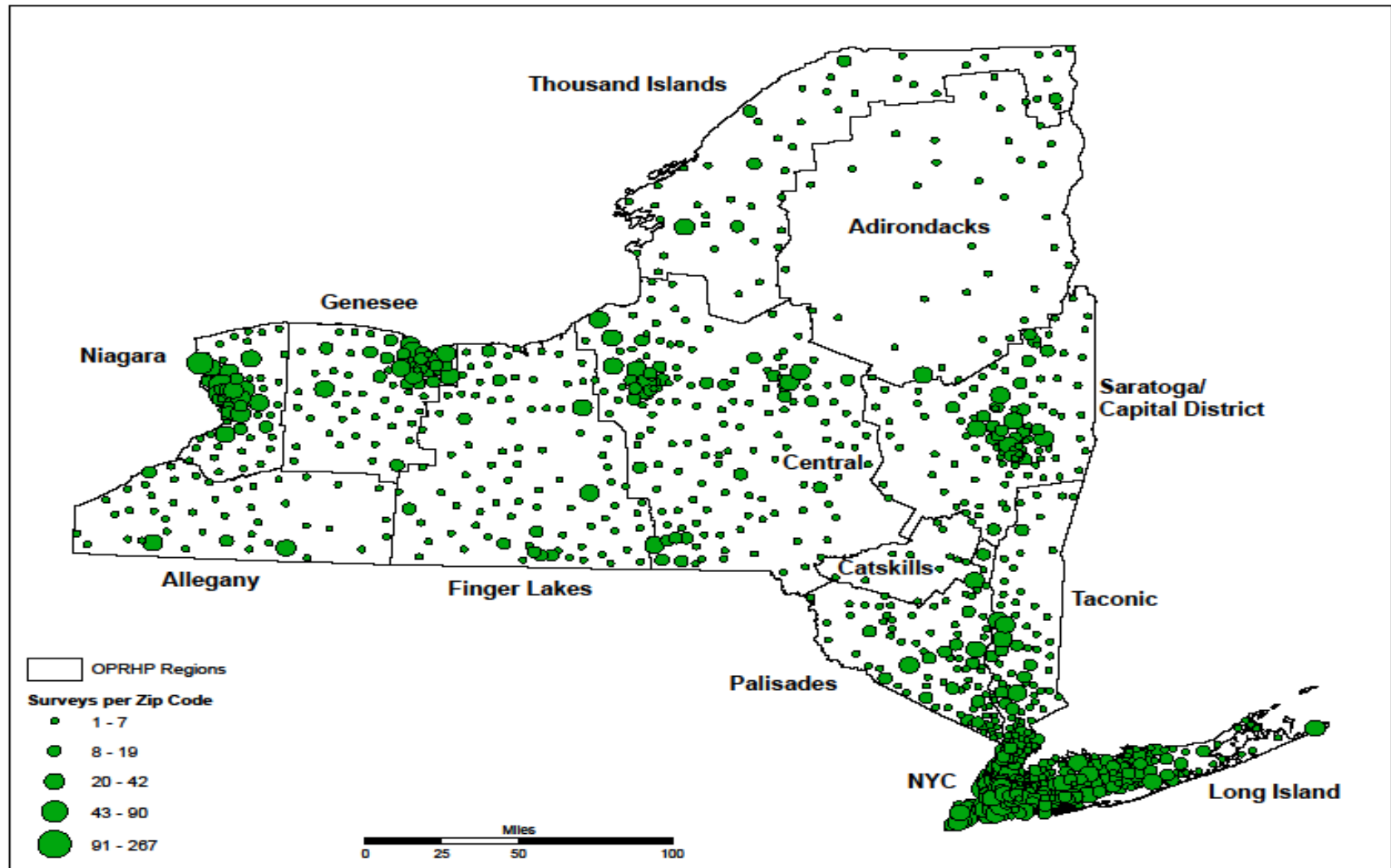
Point Au Roche State Park



Park Professional Survey (PPS)

- Over 200 Park Professionals surveyed
- 166 completed surveys

Zip Codes of 2018 PORS Respondents



Public Outdoor Recreation Survey

Think about the outdoor recreation activities you participated in during the last calendar year. Based on your experiences, how many days did you participate in each of the following?

	not at all	1 to 5 days	6 to 14 days	15 to 30 days	31 to 90 days	91 to 120 days	121 to 180 days	181 to 240 days	more than 240 days
* relaxing in the park (picnicking, playground use, visiting nature areas and gardens, croquet, dog parks etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* swimming (in an ocean lake or river, or in a public or private pool)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* bicycling (on and off road bicycling including mountain biking)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* golfing (9 hole, 18 hole, or par 3 courses, but <i>not</i> miniature golf or driving ranges)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* court games (tennis, racquetball, basketball, handball, pickleball etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* field sports (baseball, soccer, football, disc golf etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* walking for enjoyment (including jogging, running, and day hiking)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* camping (tenting, primitive, RV, backpacking/long distance hiking etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
* fishing (from land, by boat, or ice-fishing)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Relative Index of Need (RIN)

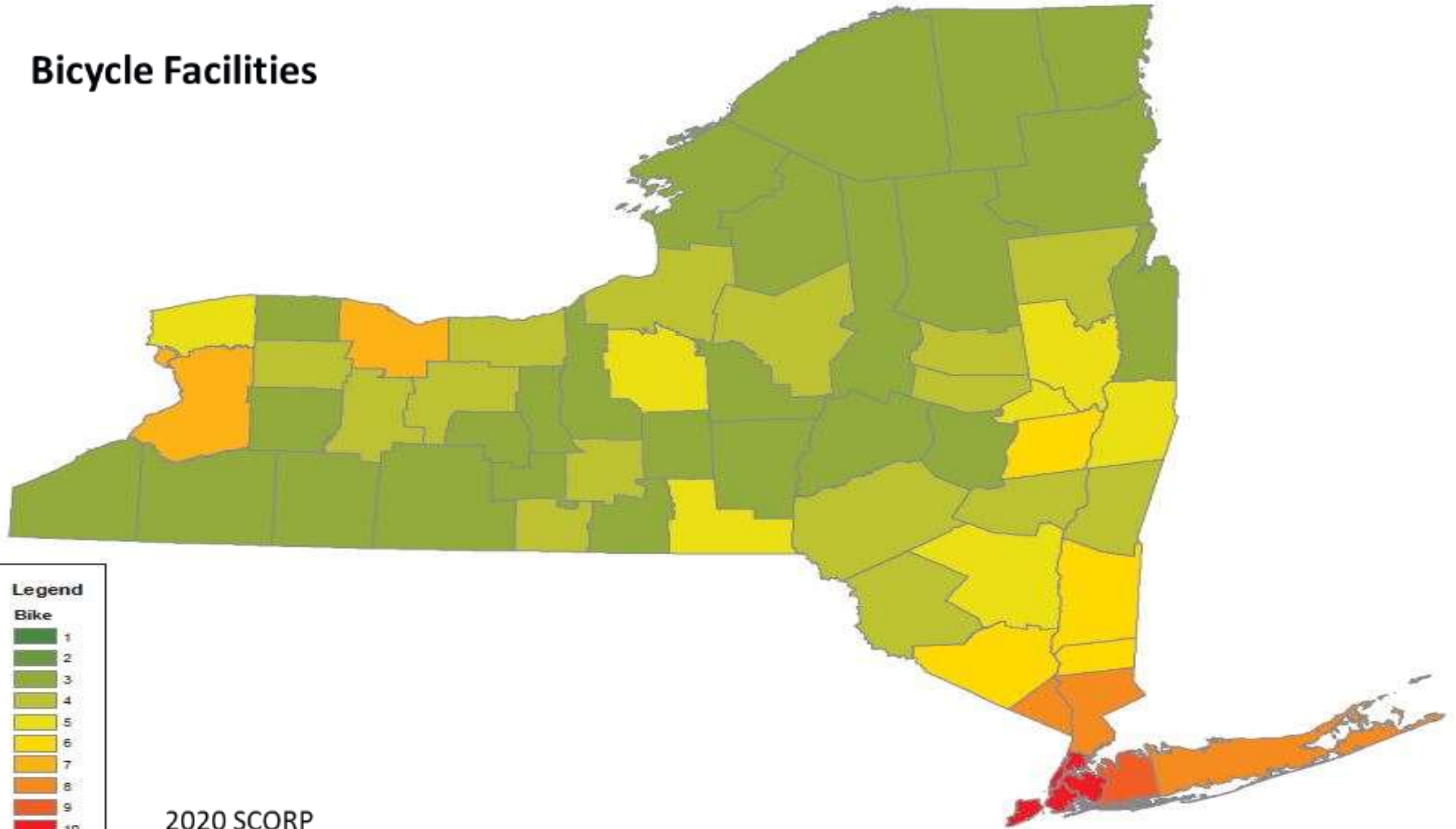
- Result of analysis of activity participation data from 2018 Public Outdoor Recreation Survey (PORS)
- Provided for each county by type of recreational activity

Relative Index of Needs (RIN)

County	Park	Swim	Bike	Golf	Court	Field	Walk
Albany	4	9	6	7	8	5	5
Allegany	9	5	3	3	4	4	4
Bronx	10	5	10	4	5	6	8
Broome	4	4	5	5	6	4	5
Cattaraugus	3	5	3	7	5	4	2
Cayuga	5	4	3	4	6	4	4

Need for Biking Facilities – RIN Map

Bicycle Facilities



2020 SCORP



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Recreation and Resiliency



Gantry Plaza State Park, Queens, NY



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Wetlands



- are an integral part of the State's outdoor recreation resilience strategy
- are regulated by DEC
- must be included in the SCORP as a plan component, per the LWCF Act as amended

*Constitution Marsh, east
shore of the Hudson River
in Garrison, NY*



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2020 SCORP Themes

To guide recreation planning in the State, themes were identified for the 2020 SCORP.

They are:

- Keep the outdoor recreation system welcoming, safe, affordable, and accessible.
- Improve the visitor experience.
- Restore and enhance the State outdoor recreation system with an emphasis on conservation and resiliency.
- Celebrate and teach history while promoting historic preservation efforts across the State.



Goals and Recommendations

Goal #1: Connect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Actions:

- Identify new outdoor recreation opportunities for underserved communities.
- Promote greenways and water trails as a means of urban recreation and transportation.
- Increase programming in parks for both kids and adults that encourages physical activity.
- Encourage the expansion of universally accessible trail systems.



Implementation: Stakeholders

- OPRHP
- DEC
- Federal and State partners
- Other partnerships



Implementation: Funding

Partnerships

- Acquisitions
- Cooperative Agreements
- Friends Groups
- Concessions
- Gifts
- Sponsors
- Volunteers
- Research

Federal

- LWCF
- Recreation Trails Program
- Transit in the Parks Program
- Forest Legacy Program

State

- Environmental Protection Fund
 - parks, historic preservation and heritage programs
 - Acquire priority lands identified in Open Space Plan
 - Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda
 - Capital and stewardship funding for OPRHP/DEC
- other sources of State funding



Implementation: Grant Allocation

SCORP policies, needs assessment, initiatives and goals are translated into criteria for evaluating projects in an objective manner.

SCORP criteria are used:

- in LWCF Open Project Selection Process,
- as criteria for EPF grants to municipal and nonprofit projects,
- as criteria for RTP grants,
- and for various acquisition categories consistent with the Open Space Plan



State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

- Requires all state and local agencies to consider environmental factors in Agency decision-making process and actions
- Balances environmental impacts with social and economic factors



*Bear Mountain State
Park*



Environmental Impacts

- The Action is the Adoption and Implementation of the updated SCORP
- The entire SCORP document constitutes a Generic EIS under SEQRA.
- Guides future recreational planning, activities, and development



SCORP Schedule

- **June 26-July 26** – Public comment period
- **Sept. 4, 2019** – Publication of Final SCORP/GEIS
- **Sept. 16, 2019** – Issue Findings Statement and Adopt the plan
- **September 18, 2019** - Submit to Department of the Interior (National Park Service)



Thank you!

Comments should be e-mailed to
SCORP.Plan@parks.ny.gov

The comment period will close **July 26, 2019**



*Roberto Clemente State Park
Boat Launch Site
LWCF Grant #36-01329*



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