



PRESS RELEASE

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Adirondack Park Priorities for Governor Hochul

10 priorities to improve the management of the Adirondack Park, protect the Forest Preserve, protect Adirondack waters, and help to build rural Adirondack communities.

For more information:

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North Creek, NY. Kathy Hochul, the two-term New York State Lieutenant Governor from the Town of Hamburg in Erie County, was sworn in last night as the 57th Governor of New York. She is the first female Governor in New York's history. Protect the Adirondacks welcomes our new Governor and wish her great success.

Protect the Adirondacks has worked in one way or another since 1901 to protect the public Forest Preserve, wild places, waters, and rural communities of the Adirondack Park. Because New York is a state with a strong executive and because the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Adirondack Park Agency (APA) play major roles, administering the 2.6-million-acre public Forest Preserve and the regional land use zoning plan, the priorities of the Governor shape Adirondack Park policy in a direct and substantial way.

“We urge Governor Hochul to take a fresh look at the state’s priorities in the Adirondack Park. We look forward to working with the new Governor and her new team to forge a new path for the Adirondack Park,” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks.

Here are 10 priorities that demand attention and action and will help to set a new tone and improve the overall management of the Adirondack Park and protection of the Forest Preserve. Click here to get more information on the 10 priorities facing Governor Hochul and the Adirondack Park:

1. Institute transparency and openness in Adirondack Park policymaking. The DEC-APA practices of decision-making by secret agreements must end.

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2. Follow the law. The DEC is trying to skirt the recent Court of Appeals decision that found it had violated Article 14, Section 1, of the NYS Constitution. Its response is business as usual.

3. Save Whitney Park. Protection of the 36,000-acre Whitney Park is vital to the future of the Adirondack Park.

4. Invest in the Forest Preserve. In the last 10 years, the state made massive investments in ORDA facilities, but failed to invest in the public Forest Preserve. Investment in the Forest Preserve to rebuild trails, parking areas, and other facilities is long overdue.

5. Fix the Adirondack Park Agency. The APA is at its weakest point in its history. The Board and senior staff need an overhaul.

6. Fix the Department of Environmental Conservation. The DEC controls the APA, skirts the law, and has resisted meaningful reforms to Forest Preserve management.

7. Protect Adirondack waters. Road salt pollution, septic system pollution, and aquatic invasive species are causing major problems for Adirondack waters. The state needs to pass new laws and tackle all three problems.

8. New investments in rural community and economic development. Rural Adirondack communities require long-term investments to build amenities, provide affordable housing, provide universal broadband, and help to make Adirondack communities more open and inclusive.

9. Invest in affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing is the single biggest obstacle facing Adirondack communities. It's a statewide problem that should be at the core of Hochul's agenda.

10. Finalize New York's Climate Change plan. The state needs to finalize this plan and establish a funding stream to implement it.

"Protect the Adirondacks urges Governor Hochul and her staff to reach out to and listen to a wide and diverse array of voices in the Adirondacks and North Country and throughout the state. We look forward to working with Governor Hochul and her team to protect the Adirondack Park and to protect the forever wild Forest Preserve," said Peter Bauer.

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks is an IRS-approved non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park. Our mission is to protect the Adirondack Park's wild character for current and future generations. PROTECT pursues this mission through a combination of advocacy, grassroots organizing, independent public oversight, research, education, and legal action.

Protect the Adirondacks was formed in 2009 as the result of a merger between two long-standing environmental conservation groups in the Park, The Resident's Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (est. 1991) and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (est. 1901).

Protect the Adirondacks is managed by a 22-member Board of Directors of Adirondack leaders with expertise in environmental law, local government, Adirondack environmental and cultural history, state agency management, and small business. Protect the Adirondacks maintains an office in a 100% energy efficient, solar-and wind-powered office in Johnsbury in the central Adirondacks. For more information see www.protectadks.org and @ProtectAdkPark.

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