



Adirondack Park
Top of the world

PROTECT THE ADIRONDACKS!

PROTECT 
THE ADIRONDACKS!

Annual Members Meeting
July 22, 2023, 10:00 AM

Agenda

1. Welcome by Chuck Clusen, PROTECT Chair
2. Introduction of Board of Directors & Staff
3. 2022-2023 Financial Report by Peter Bauer & David Quinn, Treasurer
4. 2023 Board of Directors Election by Michael Wilson and Barbara Rottier
5. 2023 Conservation & Advocacy Report
6. Questions & Comments
7. An Exploration of Forever Wild with Dr. Philip Terrie, John Caffry, Claudia Braymer, and Chris Amato
9. Lunch and Adjourn



Board of Directors 2023

Charles Clusen, Chair

James McMartin Long, Vice Chair

Michael Wilson, Vice Chair

Barbara Rottier, Secretary

David Quinn, Treasurer

Nancy Bernstein

John Caffry

Andy Coney

Dean Cook

James C. Dawson

Lorraine Duvall

Bob Glennon

Roger Gray

Evelyn Greene

Sid Harring

Dale Jeffers

Mark Lawton

John Nemjo

Peter O'Shea

Philip Terrie

Chris Walsh

Peter Bauer, Executive Director

Claudia Braymer, Deputy Director

Christopher Amato, Conservation Director and Counsel



3-Year Income Comparison (July-June)

Source	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Membership	\$57,335	\$65,597	\$65,003
Large Donors	161,741	169,044	165,363
Corporate Match	11,109	13,807	11,643
Bequest/Memorials	2,550	201,715	28,416
Legal Defense Funds	1,687	14,145	0
Foundation Grants	69,000	67,500	70,510
Events, Meetings, Conferences	2,475	1,225	395
ALAP	20,200	10,335	8,605
Partnerships	10,300	5,725	13,645
Interest	9	14	14
Misc. Income	0	855	272
Office Annual Fund	15,000	10,000	15,067
Total	\$351,406	\$559,962	\$378,933

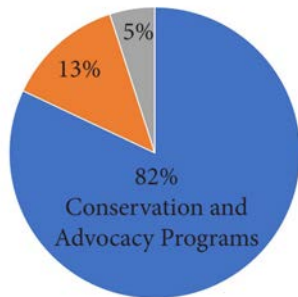
3-Year Expense Comparison

Source	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Salaries and Benefits	\$260,201	\$201,811	\$212,511
Contracted Services	6,491	7,012	2,035
Office Maint., Utilities, etc.	13,825	10,341	12,047
Insurance	2,073	3,269	5,413
Office Supplies	3,532	2,858	3,448
Printing, Postage	36,870	21,770	16,199
ALAP	38,898	33,508	28,415
Legal Defense Fund	16,426	7,139	1,280
Website	2,342	2,422	1,357
Dues/Subscrip/Licenses	515	640	743
Advertising	1,750	5,325	6,594
Events	0	0	0
Conferences/Travel	11,874	5,873	5,120
Bank Charges/Audit	10,096	9,413	11,304
Equip, Maint., Softwr, Misc.	18,505	11,486	7,791
Program Expenses	6,476	22,120	13,753
Total	\$429,874	\$344,987	\$328,010

3-Year Total Organizational Assets Comparison

Source	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Cash on hand	\$165,848	\$184,120	\$173,692
Temp Restricted Assets	105,192	125,623	129,916
Long-Term Portfolio	494,611	485,173	560,617
Property (ARL)	470,827	470,827	470,827
Property (headquarters)	191,645	191,645	191,645
Endowment	328,009	311,760	116,362
Equipment	6,200	6,200	6,200
Total	\$1,762,332	\$1,775,348	\$1,649,295

2021-22 Total Resource Allocation



Administration 5%
 Fundraising 13%
 Programs 82%

Protect the Adirondacks is the recipient of the “Gold” level Guidestar seal for organizational transparency.



The fiscal year for Protect the Adirondacks is July 1 – June 30th.

PROTECT has an annual audit completed each year, which is available upon request or from the NYS Attorney Generals Office.

A financial summary is published in our annual report each year.

Board of Directors Election 2023

(Full 3-Year Terms)

Nancy Bernstein, Vermontville, NY

John Caffry, Glens Falls, NY

Chuck Clusen, Alexandria, VA and
North River, NY

Dean Cook, Ticonderoga, NY

James McMartin Long, Caroga, NY

Mark Lawton, Saratoga Springs, NY

Phil Terrie, Ithaca, NY and
Long Lake, NY



Adirondack Park

6-million acres, crazy-quality, patchwork of land ownerships of over 5.5 million acres of continuous high forest canopy

Wild landscape of forests, mountains and water

2.6 million acres public Forest Preserve, includes 1.1 million acres of Wilderness

Over 750,000 acres of conservation easements

Over 3,000 lakes and ponds, 1 million acres of wetlands, 1,500 miles of rivers 35,000 miles of streams

Parts of 12 counties, 92 towns, 130,000 residents, 250,000 seasonal residents, 12 million visitors

Most accessible wild place in U.S. with over 4,000 miles of various kinds of open trails



Top 10 Organizational and Conservation Priorities for 2023-2024

1. Staffing succession
2. Defense of Article 14 and Forest Preserve Management Reform
3. Land Protection
4. Independent Public Oversight
5. Advocacy and Legislation
6. Adirondack Park Conservation Plan
7. Securing Long-Term Investments in Adirondack Communities
8. Making the Adirondack Park More Open, Inclusive and Diverse
9. Long-Term Partnerships for the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program and Adirondack Research Library and Kelly Adirondack Center
10. Expanding Long-term Organizational Financial Support



1. Staffing Succession



Adirondack Park Environmental Lobby Day

Planning for Leadership Changes

2023 saw the hiring of Claudia Braymer as the new Deputy Director. Claudia was hired with the goal and understanding that she will take over at Executive Director. An environmental attorney in private practice, Claudia is working part-time in 2023 as she winds down her case load, and she will begin full-time work in January 2024. The plan is for her to take over as Executive Director in July 2025.

PROTECT hired Christopher Amato as Conservation Director and Counsel in 2022.

2. Defense of Article 14 Forest Preserve Management Reform



We're in the final stages of wrapping up our successful Article 14 lawsuit, which should be completed this summer. This victory is a catalyst for reform. We fully explore the importance of this 10-year effort this afternoon

2. Defense of Article 14 Forest and Preserve Management Reform



Policy Reforms Underway

Forest Preserve Management Reforms for Public Information/Notice (underway) with new Forest Preserve Stewardship Working Group

DEC Tree Cutting Policy Revision (underway)

Snowmobile Trails Construction and Maintenance Policy Revision (underway)

Foot Trails/All Other Trails Construction and Maintenance Policy Revision (underway)

Various Unit Management Plans need to be amended (underway)

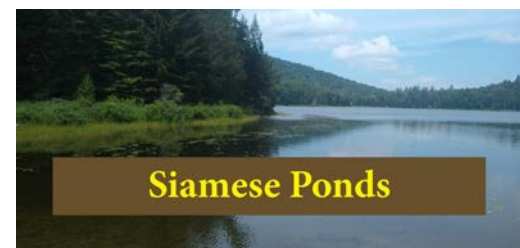
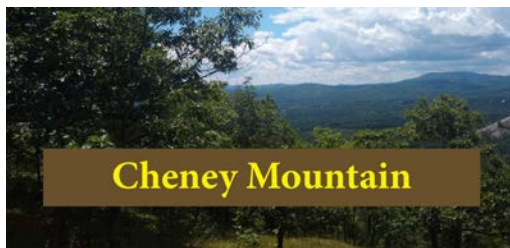
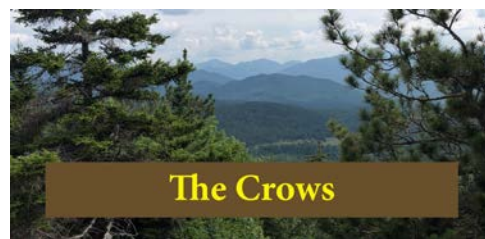
Article 14 compliance, trail widths, wild forest state, terrain changes, tree cutting all factored into Forest Preserve management

2. Defense of Article 14 Forest and Preserve Management Reform



Long advocated for new comprehensive management program for the High Peaks Wilderness Area:
1. Education. 2. Sustainable Trails. 3. Scientific research on impacts of public use on natural resources, user experience in a Wilderness area. 4. Investment in facilities, such as trailheads, visitor center, parking areas.
Now this type of program is being developed in a pilot study for Visitor Use Management.

2. Defense of Article 14 Forest and Preserve Management Reform



3. Land Protection

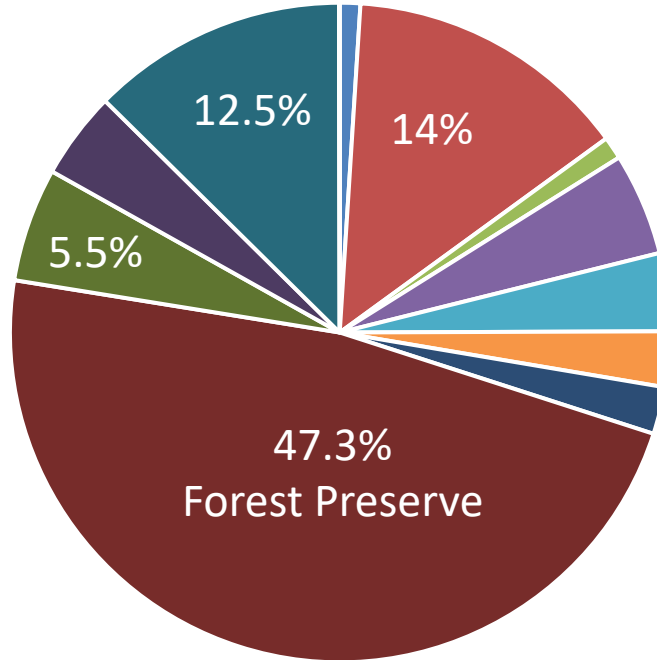
31.36 million acres in New York State

19.7% lands and waters protected in 2023; 6,189,555 acres

3 million more acres to protect by 2030, we're working out recommendations

Enormous opportunity, enormous challenges

Protected Lands NYS 30x30



- NYS Ag Conservation Easements
- State Conservation Easements
- NYC Conservation Easements
- NGO Conservation Easements
- Municipal Lands
- Federal Lands
- NGO Fee Lands
- Forest Preserve
- State Park
- Other State
- State Forests
- Other

3. Land Protection



Top of the List: Whitney Park

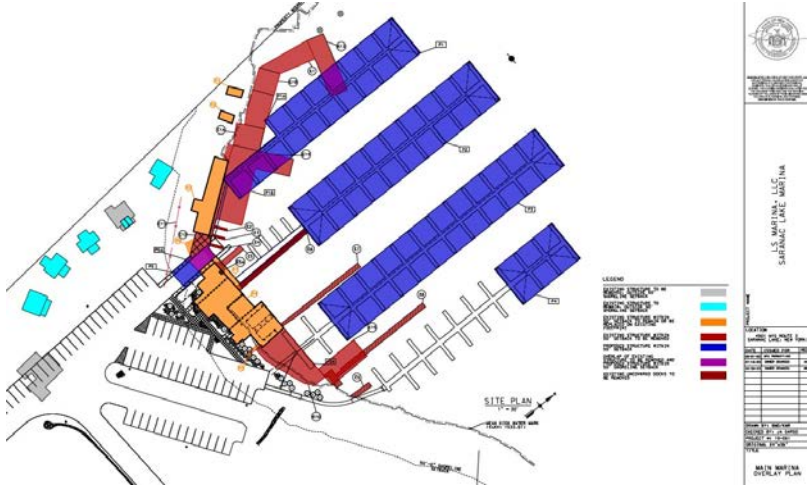
One of the greatest challenges in upon us all with the threatened develop-ment and sale of the 36,000-acre Whitney Park in Long Lake, Hamilton County. This 36,000-acre tract includes 22 lakes and ponds and is border by a Wilderness Area to the north, Wild Forest to the east and south. Historic east-west, north-south canoe routes through tract. Must be preserved and protected.

4. Independent Public Oversight



Monitoring Regulatory Decisions of State Agencies and Adirondack Local Governments

We scrutinize the review process of the biggest, most impactful, and most controversial projects permitted by state agencies and local governments.



4. Independent Public Oversight



STACKMAN PROPERTY CONCEPT 1
APRIL 2023



Major Subdivisions

The Stackman project, under review by the APA, is Jay seeks 120 lots that will include up to 20 townhomes, each 1800 square feet in size; up to 60 villas, each 3500 square feet in size; up to 18 estates, each 6500 square feet in size; up to 6 mansions, each 10,000 square feet in size. Project spread across property and will negatively impact 62%-76% of the property.

4. Independent Public Oversight



Forest Preserve Management

Monitor field operations of state agencies and contractors. Found DEC was rebuilding a road in the High Peaks Wilderness it had spent two years dismantling. Exposure stopped DEC's work. We're challenging the legality of this rebuilt road in court.

4. Independent Public Oversight



Forcing NYSDEC to Call a Wolf a Wolf

In December 2021, a hunter shoots a large coyote, but calls NYSDEC because it's so big he thinks it's a wolf.

DEC takes tissue samples, but tells hunter it's a coyote. DEC orders DNA analysis, does not release to public.

Wolf advocates see social media posts of the big coyote and contact hunter who gives them samples for DNA.

In July, public DNA analysis finds 98% wolf. DEC rejects analysis, says its analysis shows coyote.

In October, a second DNA analysis (Princeton) shows 90% wolf, DEC claims it's a coyote. DEC refuses to release its DNA analysis.

After FOIL requests, DEC releases its DNA test that shows majority wolf genes, says it's a released captive.

March 2023, DEC releases further tests on wolf's diet and states it's a wild wolf from Great Lakes states

5. Advocacy and Legislation



NYS Passes Ban on Wildlife Killing Contests

The wild wolf episode led to the formation of the Northeast Wolf Coalition, which led to a coalition of groups supporting legislation to ban wildlife killing contests that focused heavily on killing coyotes. Bill is now awaiting Governor Hochul's signature.

5. Advocacy and Legislation



Advocacy is focused on a variety of issues and projects around the Adirondack Park, from invasive species control, to road salt pollution, to new multi-use trails, to name just a few.



5. Advocacy and Legislation



Budget wins for EPF, land protection funding, SCALE research, SUNY ESF-CUNY environmental career training, ADI, VICs, state land stewardship.

5. Advocacy and Legislation



First Passage of Article 14 Amendments

This year, First Passage in both Senate-Assembly was achieved for Mt Van Hoevenberg draft amendment.

Camp Gabriels, Debar Lodge, NYCO sunset amendment all saw some action, but did not pass both houses.

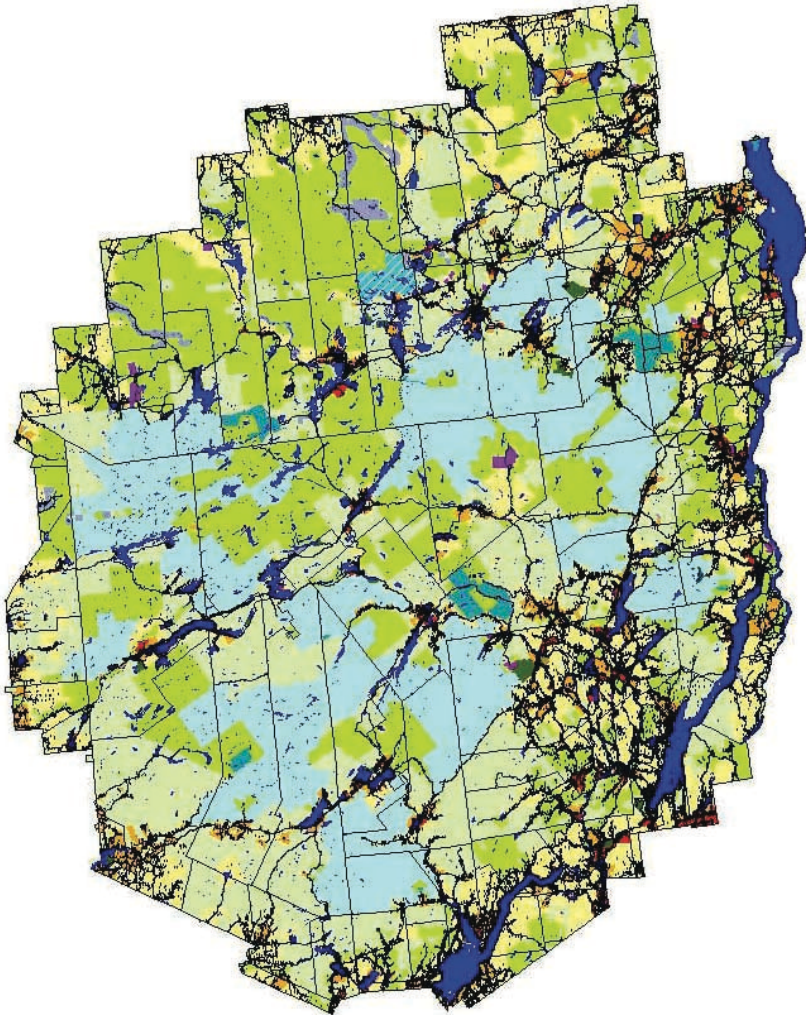
5. Advocacy and Legislation



APA Act Reform

The APA Land Use and Development Plan was passed in 1973. At 50 years old the Act needs an update. Act needs to revision for SEQRA, stormwater, conservation design, climate change, shoreline protection, community development and vitality.

6. Adirondack Park Conservation Plan



Adirondack Park needs a long-term Plan

Assessment of Growth Rates

Local Building Permits: So far, we've completed building permit counts 2000-2019 for 74/98 towns and villages in the Park, some 80,000 permits. We have 24 more towns to go.

Builds upon a study 1990-1999.

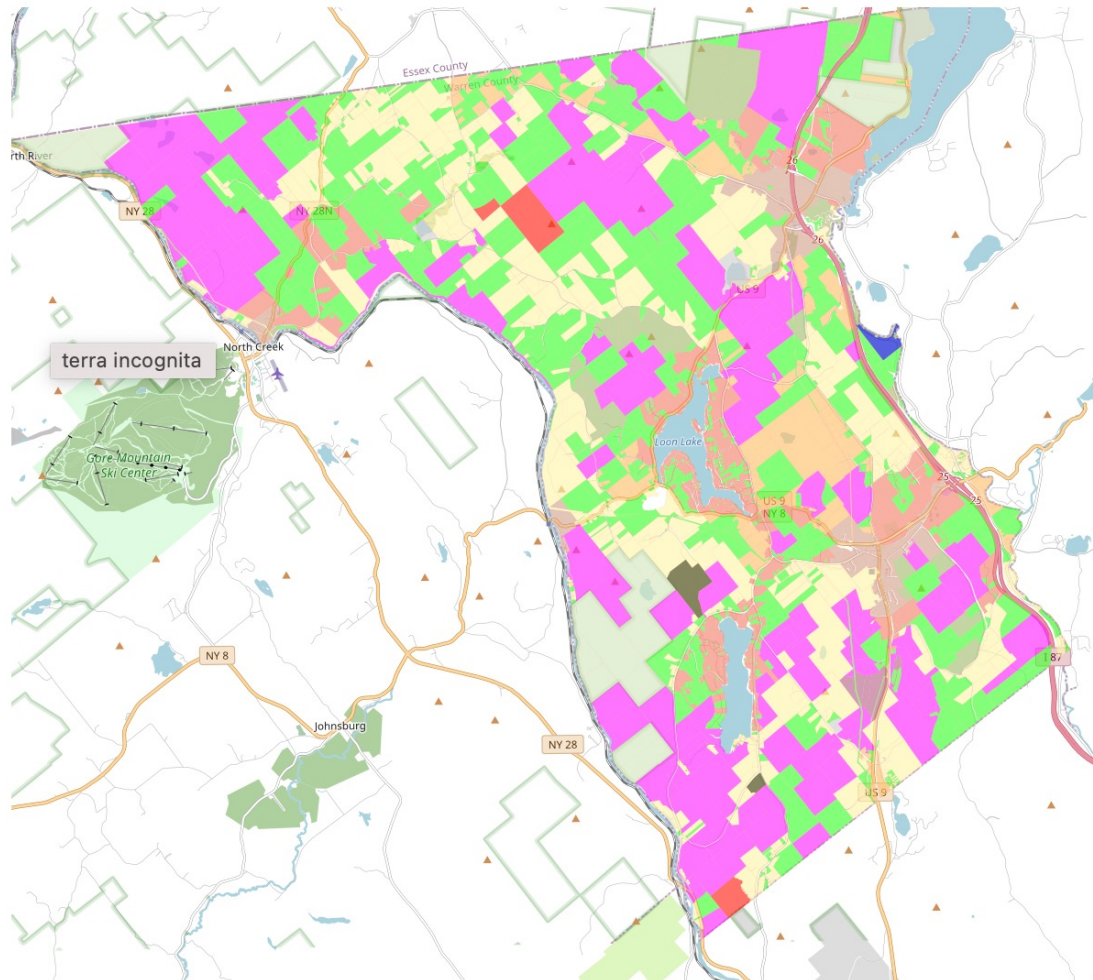
APA Building Permits: APA data continues to be a challenge. Permits are in disarray. Starting in 2023, APA has agreed to post all permits online.

Assessing other growth factors, such as new parcels, residential wells, SPEDES permits, tax roll changes.

6. Adirondack Park Conservation Plan

Open Space Assessment

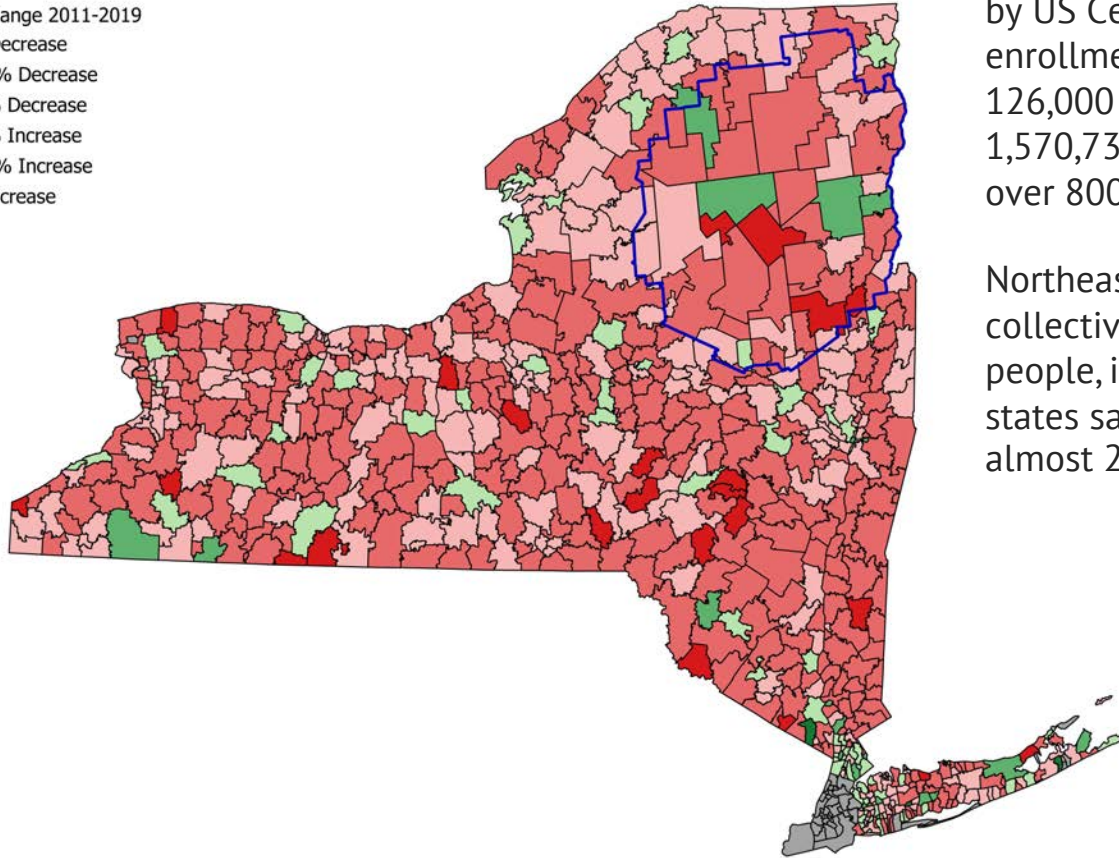
A Park-wide inventory of undeveloped parcels to determine the lands that make the most sense for long-term protection. In initial phase of this work. This map shows the Town of Chester, Warren County. Purple lands are undeveloped parcels with high conservation values.



6. Adirondack Park Conservation Plan

Enrollment Change 2011-2019

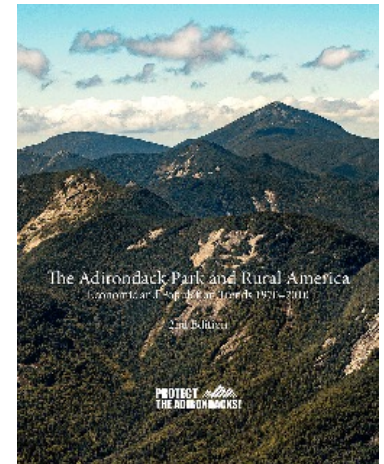
- > 25% Decrease
- 25 to 10% Decrease
- 10 to 0% Decrease
- 0 to 10% Increase
- 10 to 25% Increase
- >25% Increase
- No Data



Rural America Realities for Economic and Population Trends

2020 update in the works, hampered by US Census changes. NYS school enrollments 2000-2010 drops by 126,000 student, 1,697,244 to 1,570,736, a -7% drop. NYS gained over 800,000 residents.

Northeast US, PA/NJ to ME, saw collective loss of over 622,000 young people, in a decade when these nine states saw a population growth of almost 2.3 million.



7. Improve and Strengthen Long-Term Investments in Adirondack Communities



PROTECT will advocate in a variety of public forums and in Albany for long-term investments that help build local institutions, affordable housing, businesses, and communities.

8. Making the Adirondack Park More Open, Inclusive and Diverse



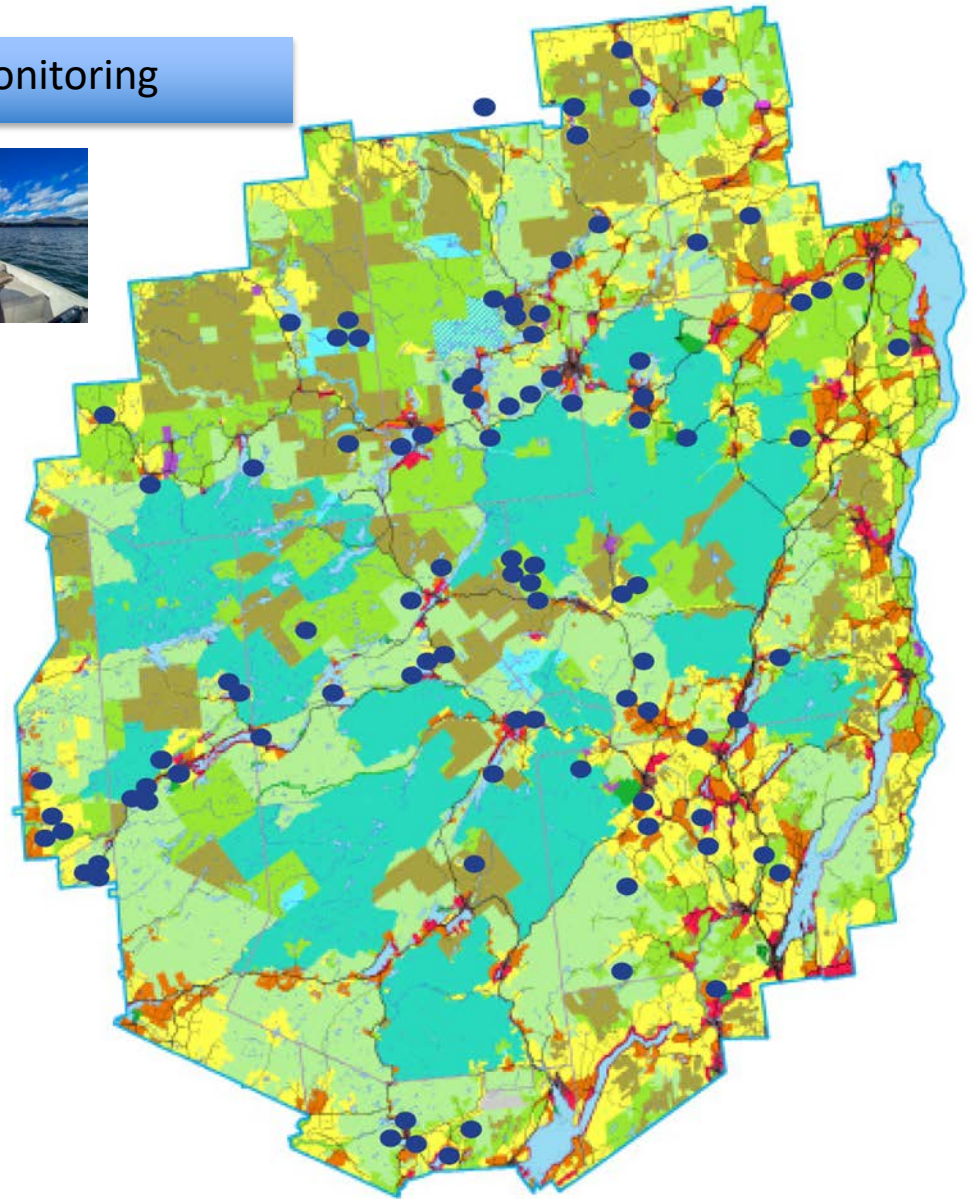
Protect the Adirondacks is in the planning process for how we can help to make the Adirondack Park a more open, inclusive and diverse place. The Adirondack Park and the Forest Preserve belongs to everybody and organizations that work to protect and defend the Adirondacks need to make sure that it is a place that is welcoming and safe for everybody. PROTECT is educating itself on these issues and planning for how we can help in this important work.

9. Long-Term Partnerships: Water Quality Monitoring

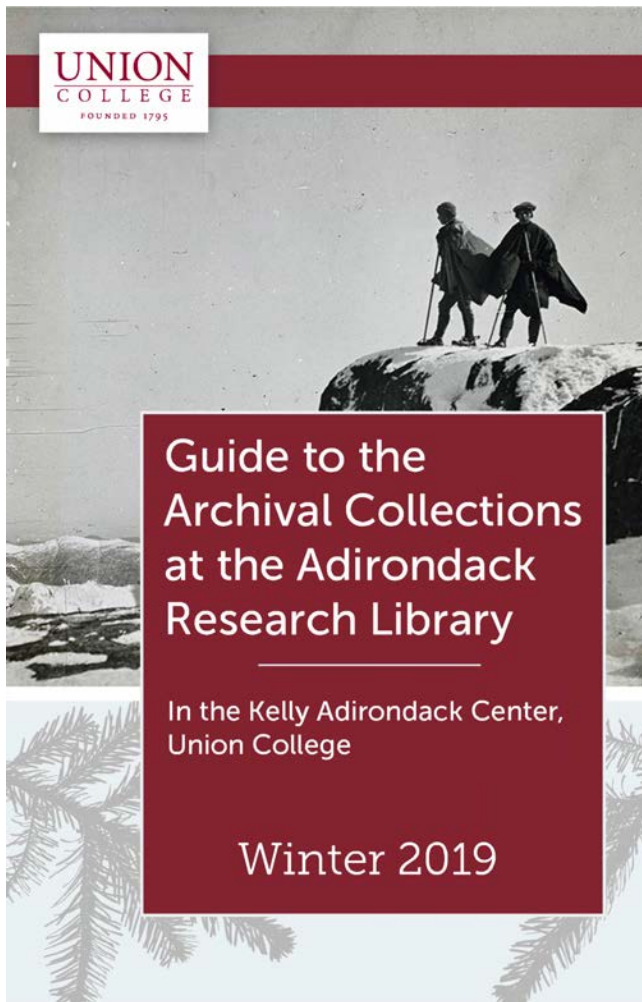


Adirondack Lake Assessment Program

- 2023 is the 26th year of the partnership between PROTECT and Adirondack Watersheds Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College
- 77 lakes enrolled in 2023
- Analysis of nutrients levels (phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll-a), water clarity/color, and various metals (alkalinity, calcium, aluminum) and chloride/conductivity
- Volunteers gather data, analysis by AWI-PSC
- Reports provided at the end of each season
- Road salt pollution documented by ALAP
- One of best long-term scientific programs in NYS, eastern U.S.



9. Long-Term Partnerships: Adirondack Research Library



Adirondack Research Library Collections

Papers of retired Rangers, Bob Marshall, Louis Marshall, conservationists Harold Jerry, Jr., George Davis, Gary Randorf, Paul Schaefer, papers of Jeanne Robert Foster, collections of historic maps and photographs, and much more.

10. Building Organizational Long-Term Financial Viability

Long-Term Funds to Support Legal Action, Conservation and Advocacy

Protect the Adirondacks has long-term funds to maintain its office and funds for programs. We need to build our long-term funds to support core programs for legal action, research, conservation, and advocacy.

Get in touch with us today, if you're interested in helping us.

Thank you.





**Thank you for your support.
Help PROTECT grow and
expand our impact and work
to defend the Forest
Preserve, waters and
wildlands of the Adirondack
Park.**

Questions and comments?