David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation

Allegany Region ▪ Allegany State Park ▪ 2373 ASP Route 1, Suite 3, Salamanca, New York 14779
716-354-9101 Fax: 716-354-6725
www.nysparks.com

AGENCY DECISION
AND
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

Adoption of Final Master Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement for Allegany State Park
Designation of a Bird Conservation Area
Designation of a Natural Heritage Area
Designation of a Park Preservation Area

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has prepared a Final Master Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), dated June 30, 2010 for Allegany State Park located in the Towns of Red House, Carrollton, Cold Spring, South Valley, Salamanca, and Great Valley in Cattaraugus County.

By the authority vested in me in State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Law, I do hereby adopt the Final Master Plan / FEIS for Allegany State Park. I also designate the park as a Bird Conservation Area and as a Natural Heritage Area. A portion of the park, as detailed in the Master Plan, is also designated a Park Preservation Area.

This decision is based on the Findings Statement and the content of the Final Master Plan/ FEIS, which have been prepared according to the provisions of Part 617, the regulations implementing Article 8 of Environmental Conservation Law - the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Carol Ash
Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

July 21- 2010
Date

SEQR FINDINGS STATEMENT
Allegany State Park Final Master Plan / FEIS

July 12, 2010

Pursuant to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act – SEQRA) of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), as lead agency, makes the following findings.

Title of the Action:

Adoption and Implementation of a Final Master Plan / Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Allegany State Park

Location:

Allegany State Park is located in the Towns of Red House, Carrollton, Cold Spring, South Valley, Salamanca, and Great Valley, in Cattaraugus County, NY.

Description of the Action:

The final Master Plan for Allegany State Park provides long term guidance for the development and management of the park and protection of its resources as summarized below.

Date of Completion of the Final EIS: June 30, 2010

Findings:

1. These findings consider the relevant environmental impacts, facts and conclusions disclosed in the final EIS; weigh and balance relevant environmental impacts with social, economic and other considerations; provide a rationale for the agency's decision; certify that the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617 have been met; and certify that consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is one which avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that included within the plan are those mitigation measures that will avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

2. The Final Plan/FEIS was subject to a complete Environmental Impact Statement process including public information meetings and 2 public hearings.

3. The Final Environmental Impact Statement contains a chapter on responses to comments on the Draft EIS. This chapter contains clarification of issues raised during the review of the Draft EIS. It also provides information that has been used in the preparation of the Final Master Plan/FEIS.

4. Allegany State Park was established in 1921 and is the largest state park in New York State comprising approximately 64,800 acres within its legislated boundary. It is located in Cattaraugus County in the OPRHP Allegany Region. The park is open year-round and hosts approximately 1.5 million visitors annually.

5. The geology of Allegany State Park is unique in New York State for being non-glaciated. The park is within the Salamanca Re-Entrant, a portion of northern reaches of the Allegheny Plateau never reached by the last Wisconsin ice sheet. This distinction influences the soils, surficial geology, topography and flora and fauna of the park. The water resources of the park include approximately 64 miles of fresh water stream plus many smaller tributaries as well as 3 man-made lakes and several state and federally designated wetlands. There are areas of the park which have been virtually undisturbed since its establishment and, in some cases, for many years before that. This has allowed vast stretches of forest to mature with little or no human intervention. Thus, many of the ecological communities that have developed in the park during this time are either rare for New York State or are of significance because of their high quality as examples of the community type. Wildlife is also abundant in the park with many species of birds, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

6. Several of the structures within Allegany State Park including portions of the Red House Area, Quaker Area, group camps and Stone Tower have been recommended by OPRHP's Field Services Bureau as eligible for designation on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, a cultural resources survey conducted by the NYS Museum indicates considerable areas with high sensitivity for historic and prehistoric sites.

7. There is a wide variety of recreation resources in the park. Camping, cabins and cottages are available for overnight visitors. Swimming, picnicking, hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, , birding, photography, nature studies other passive recreation activities are all available at the park as well as just relaxing and enjoying many scenic vistas.

8. The plan identifies a vision statement and goals for the park. The vision statement is: Allegany State Park will be a place for the public to visit, enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers. A balance will be achieved between recreational use and the protection and interpretation of

the biological, physical and cultural resources of the park. The overall goal is to: Provide a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities balanced with stewardship of the park's natural and cultural resources.

9. The plan presents a series of "preferred alternatives" for future development and operation of Allegany State Park. Cumulatively, the actions described in the plan present OPRHP's long-term vision for the rehabilitation and enhancement of the park.

10. Status quo alternatives were evaluated for each element of the plan as well as other feasible alternatives. The Preferred Alternative combines the preferred options for recreation development and resource protection into one that best meets the goals for the park. This alternative represents the Final Master Plan.

11. The final Master Plan considers the historic, cultural, natural, geological, and recreational resources of the park and responds to the needs and safety of patrons, protection of cultural and natural resources, and principles of sustainability. It also details the designations, park preservation area designations, recreation and stewardship elements. The plan also prioritizes implementation actions and recognizes that implementation will be dependent on public and private funding.

12. Article 5 - Title 11 - Section 0539 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law calls for the dedication of state-owned lands with rare species and/or significant natural communities as Natural Heritage Areas (NHA). These lands must meet certain criteria identified within the law. Allegany State Park was evaluated by the NY Natural Heritage Program and the entire park will be designated as an NHA. Designating the park as a NHA provides additional recognition of the significant ecological communities within the park. All of the current and proposed recreational activities in the park are consistent with the NHA designation.

13. The Bird Conservation Areas program is established in Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-2001, and authorizes the designation of BCA's in order to safeguard and enhance significant bird habitats located within state parks and other state-owned lands. The entire Allegany State Park is designated as a Bird Conservation Area. The BCA designation provides a level of recognition on a statewide level relative to other state parks and sites. The BCA designation does not prohibit existing or future recreation uses or park operations.

14. Article 20 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law outlines the process for designation of entire parks or portions of parks as part of a statewide Park Preserve system. The purpose of such designations is to conserve and protect park lands containing wildlife, flora, scenic, historic and archeological sites that are unique and rare in New York State.

Given the extent of cabins, campgrounds and other facilities within the park, OPRHP determined that Park Preservation Area designation is appropriate under Article 20. The Park Preservation area for Allegany State Park encompasses the entire park with the exception of developed areas, existing roads, the snowmobile trail system (including any future connections of the snowmobile trail system to surrounding communities and trail systems) and well head areas and roads within the National Fuel Gas Storage area. The Park Preservation Area is approximately 83% of the park This designation is consistent with the current management of the park and represents the Agency's commitment to continue the park's historical and present management philosophy into the future.

15. The plan provides protection of natural resources through several means including: the designations discussed above, continued management of selected streams for native brook trout, development of a stream monitoring program for the Quaker Run watershed, survey and management measures for aquatic invasive species in the lakes, continued periodic dredging of the lakes as needed, development of an invasive species management plan for the park, location and mapping of spring seeps and ephemeral wetlands, continued maintenance of open field areas, passive management of the park's forests in accordance with Agency policy, prohibition of development of state-owned sub-surface resources and use of the Agency protocol and permit system for requests to access privately-owned subsurface rights in the park.

16. The plan also calls for several improvements to recreation opportunities at the park including:

- RV sites will replace some campsites at the Red House Camping area.
- Red House and Cain Hollow areas will receive electrical system upgrades.
- A primitive carry in-carry out camping area will be added at Cain Hollow.
- Backpack camping will be allowed, by permit, in certain areas in Wolf Run.
- A new loop of 5-10 cottages will be added on Bova Road above Camp Allegany.
- Some additional new cottages will be constructed on Parallel trail.
- Group Camp 5 will be rebuilt with barracks style accommodations and a new wash house.
- Group Camp 12 cabins will be replaced with new ones of the same design, a new wash house and rehabilitated mess hall.
- Camp Allegany will get utilities upgrades, rehabilitated barracks and mess hall and a study into the feasibility of more green building features.

- A new horse corral will be built on the north side of ASP 3 for Camp Turner.
- A new equestrian camping area will be developed at Group Camp 10, integrating it with the current area on the east side of ASP 2.
- New equestrian staging areas will be built in Bay State, Bradford entrance and Rice Brook areas.
- A new visitor and nature center will be built in the Beehunter area.
- Bath houses at both swimming beaches will be upgraded and a study will be completed to determine the feasibility of reinstating diving at the Quaker Lake beach.
- A picnic area will be formalized in the vicinity of Quaker beach.
- Two new picnic shelters will be constructed, one each in Quaker and Red House.
- Rest rooms at the picnic areas will be upgraded.
- Court and field game facilities will be upgraded in Quaker and Red House.
- A new basketball court will be developed in the Cain Hollow area.
- Playground equipment that was removed in Red House will be replaced.
- A new car top boat launch will be developed at the southern end of Quaker Lake.
- The water depth at the existing launch will be increased.
- A boat rental concession will be developed near the Quaker beach.
- The concession building at Red House will be rehabilitated.
- Sanitary facilities and accessibility at the Friends Boat Launch will be improved.
- The existing types of hunting opportunities will be maintained.
- Special fishing restrictions (delayed harvest on some stream segments) will continue.
- Active fish stocking will continue in selected stream segments and the lakes.
- Ice fishing will continue on both Red House and Quaker Lakes.
- Public access to all fishing areas will be improved.
- An additional accessible fishing platform will be developed at Red House Lake.
- A formal sledding area will be designated in the Summit area with an expanded warming hut that will serve the cross country ski area as well.

17. The ASP Final Trails Plan provides for approximately 227 miles of existing and proposed trails. The proposed trail system adds approximately 30 miles of undesignated trails and 50 miles of new trails to the existing designated trail system. Approximately 44

miles of undesignated trails would not be designated and would be officially closed and restored. The trails plan includes improvements to all of the Park's trail systems including: a new 7.6 mile Quaker area bikeway and improvements to the Red House Bikeway, construction of approximately 20 miles of new single-track trails for mountain biking and designation of approximately 58 miles of trails for biking, improvements and expansion of the equestrian trail system to 67 miles of designated trails, improvement and expansion of the park's hiking trail system to a total of 185 miles, rehabilitation and upgrades to the Art Roscoe Cross-country ski area, expansion of the snowmobile trail system to approximately 88 miles including proposed future connections to trails outside the park, expansion and improvement of park trailheads and parking areas, and improvement and expansion of interpretive trails within the park.

18. Allegany State Park is an integral part of the history of the area. As such the protection and interpretation of the cultural resources found there is also an important part of the master plan. Measures to protect and interpret cultural and historic resources in the park preserve include: Protection of the archaeological resources on a case by case basis where ground disturbance is anticipated, maintenance and restoration of historic structures according to the recommendations of the memorandum of resolution from the OPRHP Field Services Bureau, enhancement of cultural resource interpretation at the new visitor center as well as development of some historic interpretive trails.

19. Park operations, maintenance and infrastructure will be improved, including: The regional maintenance center will phase into using the area above the carpenter shop west of Quaker Run with new facilities, The sawmill and building it is in will be stabilized to preserve and protect them and guided tours will be provided, a new premier entrance and new building with camper registration facilities will be constructed at the park entrance from the Southern Tier Expressway on ASP 2, the Red House maintenance facility will be moved to the new location adjacent to the sawmill, the storage and work areas at the Quaker maintenance facility will be expanded, the Quaker administration building will be improved to provide accessible restrooms, an historic structures report will be produced for the Regional Administration Building.

20. In addition, the plan recognizes that implementation of all of the actions identified within the plan will require substantial investment of state funds, along with additional funding from other public and private sources. The implementation of the Master Plan is divided into three priority phases. The initiation and completion of these priority phases will depend upon funding and demand and will be balanced with the need to make ongoing capital improvements to maintain and rehabilitate the park's roads, bridges, utilities, buildings and infrastructure.

21. Environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the plan were addressed under nine general areas including land, water, air, biological resources/ecology, historic and archeological resources, scenic resources, recreation/open space, public health and safety and energy, noise and odor.

- The plan will result in some physical change to the land, particularly where new recreation facilities and trails will be constructed. Most new recreation facilities will be located in areas of the park that are already developed and will require minimal land disturbance. Most of the increased parking will be accomplished through formalizing or restriping existing areas or slightly enlarging existing pull-offs. Pervious pavements will be used wherever possible. Some new facilities and trails will be located in areas where the soils and slopes combine to pose a moderate to severe hazard for erosion. Careful site-specific planning will be applied in these areas to minimize erosion potential. Erosion control and storm water management techniques will be incorporated into site specific designs for all construction projects that will disturb park soils. Some measures anticipated to be used include minimizing soil disturbance and vegetation clearing, the use of silt fencing and straw bales, preservation of vegetated buffers and seeding of disturbed areas as soon as possible following work.

- Master Plan implementation will result in beneficial impacts to park water resources by relocation of the Regional Maintenance center away from Quaker Run and the Red House Maintenance center away from Red House Creek. Stream monitoring in the park will be conducted to obtain baseline information on park streams and to be able to detect changes in water quality associated with construction. Continued periodic maintenance dredging as needed will occur at all 3 of the man-made lakes in the park. This will improve the water quality and recreation opportunities of the lakes and reduce turbidity impacts downstream for example at the Red House Lake Beach. Temporary adverse impacts associated with dredging will be addressed through DEC and Corps of Engineers permit processes. Park streams could be impacted by proposed facility development projects or trail improvements or construction. Erosion control and stormwater management techniques as discussed above will be incorporated into site designs and a 50 foot buffer will be retained between proposed new developments and streams where possible. Buffer plantings may also be incorporated in some areas. Site specific design for new trails will seek to minimize the number of stream crossings and provide buffers between

trails and water bodies. All trail work will be undertaken using established guidelines from trail maintenance manuals and consultation with other agencies will occur as needed. Eurasian water milfoil has been identified in Quaker and Red House Lakes. A more detailed survey will be conducted to determine the location and extent of these invasive plants and steps will be taken to remove them from the lakes. Development of oil and gas resources beneath park lands also has the potential to impact park water resources. The agency's policy, protocol, permit and environmental review processes will be used to minimize any potential impacts to park resources.

- The importance of the park's natural resources has been recognized in the designation of the entire park as a Bird Conservation Area and a Natural Heritage area. These designations will bring additional recognition, potential increased visitation by eco-tourists and possible funding opportunities especially for environmental interpretation. Areas of the park have also been identified as Park Preservation Areas under Article 20 of the state Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. This designation will provide additional recognition to the importance of these areas and provide an additional layer of protection against future development proposals in these areas.

- Most of the proposed new facility development in the plan will not impact the park's significant ecological communities. Less than 35 acres of the thousands of acres of significant natural communities in the park may be affected by proposed new development or trails. This amount will likely be reduced during actual site design of trails and facilities. In accordance will agency policy, tree removal will be minimized. New trails proposed could impact park wildlife either directly through trail construction or indirectly though the effects associated with the trail uses. Most of the new proposed trails are in areas of the park that are already heavily used by recreationists. The park contains some large areas that have no roads or trails and are considered important to maintain dynamic ecological processes as well as to provide habitat for wildlife species more sensitive to disturbances. The proposed master plan and trails plan represents a balance between recreation and stewardship of the park's natural resources. Large roadless blocks within the park will remain intact. New trails proposed have been kept near the edges of these areas leaving relatively unaffected large forest interior habitats. Site specific design of all proposed new facilities and trails will

include surveys for rare plants and animals. An invasive species management plan will be developed for the park which will help inventory invasive species and prioritize removal projects. The Agency will continue to work with NYSDEC and NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets to address the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive forest pests.

- The Master Plan recognizes and protects the important historic and archeological resources within Allegany State Park. Structures that are considered contributing to the parks eligibility for the National Register will be protected by following the recommendations identified in a memorandum from the Agency's Field Services Bureau (FSB). Ground disturbing activities that are not considered categorical exclusions will require consultation with the FSB to determine if additional archeological surveys are needed.

- The park's significant scenic resources will be protected and maintained through Master Plan implementation. The plan proposes continued maintenance of scenic vistas throughout the park as well as restoration and interpretation of some historic vistas.

- The master plan will result in substantial beneficial recreation and open space impacts through improved and expanded recreation facilities and visitor amenities such as a new park visitor and interpretation center, new premier entrance providing park information and camper registration services, new cottages, picnic shelter, bikeway, and boating facilities. The Trails Plan will result in a better organized and maintained trail system, some new recreational opportunities such as single track mountain bike trails, a variety of trail lengths and difficulties for patrons of different abilities and additional interpretive trails.

- Traffic and circulation and public safety will be improved through construction of the premier entrance at Red House which will remove congestion and large trailers from the Red House Administration building area, and construction of the Quaker Bikeway which will provide a safe path for families on bicycles in the Quaker area of the park. New facilities will be designed to meet all applicable health and safety codes as well as incorporating sustainability principals and energy efficiency.

22. The plan describes the process for supplemental environmental review and provides for

guidance as to when additional environmental review may be required and identifies the types of actions that are likely to require additional review. These include new actions not addressed with the final Master Plan/FEIS that are not Type II actions within Part 617, any change from the preferred alternative for recreational and facility elements of the plan that may result in significant adverse environmental impacts and any leases, easements or other agreements between OPRHP and other entities that would affect resources in a manner that is not adequately addressed in the final Master Plan/FEIS. Specific elements of the plan are also identified that will be evaluated as to the need for additional review dependent on the outcome of more detailed planning.

Final Master Plan/
Final Environmental Impact Statement

For

Allegany State Park

June 30, 2010

David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

SEQR
NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF A FINAL EIS

Date of Notice: June 30, 2010

Lead Agency: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)

Title of Action: **Adoption and Implementation of a Master Plan for Allegany State Park**

SEQR Status: Type I

Location of Action: Allegany State Park is located in the Towns of Red House, Carrollton, Cold Spring, South Valley, Salamanca, and Great Valley in Cattaraugus County.

This Notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been completed and accepted on the Adoption and Implementation of a Master Plan for Allegany State Park. Copies of the Final Plan/FEIS are available from the agency contacts.

The Executive Summary of the Master Plan and FEIS is attached. It contains a brief summary which describes the proposed action, the environmental setting, alternatives, potential environmental impacts and mitigation.

Availability of FEIS: Copies of the Draft Plan/DEIS are available for review at the Park Office; at the offices of the agency contacts; and at the **Salamanca Public Library**, 155 Wildwood Ave, Salamanca, NY, the **James Prendergast Library**, 509 Cherry St., Jamestown, NY and at the **Buffalo and Erie County Public Library**, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY. The online version of the Final Plan/FEIS is available at the following publically accessible web site: **http://www.nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx**

Agency Contacts:

Mike Miecznikowski
Regional Director
Allegany Region
NYS OPRHP
2373 ASP Route #1 – Suite 3
Salamanca NY 14779
Phone (716) 354-6575

Thomas B. Lyons, Director
Resource Management
NYS OPRHP
Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12238

(518) 474-0409

Final Master Plan/
Final Environmental Impact Statement

for

Allegany State Park
June 30, 2010

New York
Cattaraugus County
Towns of Salamanca, Great Valley, South Valley
Cold Spring, Red House, and Carrollton
City of Salamanca
Village of Limestone

Prepared by
The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Completed: June 30, 2010

Contact: Michael Miecznikowski, Regional Director
Allegany Region
2373 ASP Route #1-Suite 3
Salamanca, NY 14779
(716) 354-6575
Michael.Miecznikowski@oprhp.state.ny.us

Thomas B. Lyons, Director of Resource Management
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238
(518) 474-0409
Fax: (518) 474-7013
Thomas.Lyons@oprhp.state.ny.us

Acknowledgements

The Allegany State Park Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact statement is a result of a cooperative effort by many persons. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) acknowledges the time and effort of all who participated in the master plan process leading to the development of this Final Master Plan Document.

In a cooperative effort, the Agency worked with and coordinated input from the following agencies:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Natural Heritage Program
Cattaraugus County

Carol Ash,
Commissioner

Andy Beers,
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Tom Alworth
Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources

Mark Thomas
Western District Director

OPRHP Core Plan Team Members

Allegany Region Staff
Michael Miecznikowski, Regional Director
Brad Whitcomb, Park Manager
Jim Toner, Capital Facilities Manger
Joe Rychcik, Quaker Area Manager
Gary Quattrone, Red House Area Manager

Albany Office Staff
Thomas Lyons, Director of Resource Management
Robert Reinhardt, Director of Planning
Karen Terbush, Assoc. Environmental Analyst
Salim Adler, Park Planner
Diana Carter, Assoc. Natural Resource Planner
Marcia Kees, Assoc. Planner

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is proposing the action of adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for Allegany State Park.

Two public information meetings were held to gather information, concerns and issues surrounding the development and management of Allegany State Park. The date for the public hearings on the Draft Master Plan/DEIS were Wednesday, May 12, 2010 in Salamanca, New York and Thursday, May 13, 2010 in Buffalo, New York.

The Commissioner has decided that a Master Plan/EIS is necessary to guide the stewardship of the resources at Allegany State Park. At this time the Commissioner has also decided that the final plan is to be made available for consideration. There has not been any decision regarding the adoption of the Final Master Plan.

Park Background

Allegany State Park was established in 1921 and is the largest state park in New York State comprising approximately 64,800 acres within its legislated boundary. It is located in Cattaraugus County in OPRHP's Allegany Region. The park is open year-round and hosts approximately 1.5 million visitors annually.

Environmental Setting

The geology of Allegany State Park is unique in New York State for being non-glaciated. The park is within the Salamanca Re-entrant, a portion of northern reaches of the Allegheny Plateau never reached by the last Wisconsin ice sheet. This distinction influences the soils, surficial geology, topography and flora and fauna of the park.

In addition, there are areas of the park which have been virtually undisturbed since its establishment and in some cases, for many years before that. This has allowed vast stretches of forest to mature with little or no intervention other than the impacts of natural processes. Because of this many of the ecological communities that have developed in the park during this time are either rare for New York State or are of significance because of their high quality as examples of the community type. Wildlife is also abundant in the park with many species of birds, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

There is a wide variety of recreation resources in the park. Camping, cabins and cottages are available for overnight visitors. Swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, picnicking, hunting, fishing, and nature studies are all available at the park as well as diverse opportunities for park visitors to simply relax and enjoy the park's natural and scenic beauty.

Vision, Goals and Policies

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

Agency Policies

OPRHP has adopted a series of policies that provide direction with respect to resource protection and park operations. These policies have applicability across the entire State Park and Historic Sites System including Allegany State Park. Policies that have particular bearing on this master plan are:

- Policy on the Development of Oil and Gas Resources in State Parks and Historic Sites
- Policy on the Management of Trees and other Vegetation in State Parks and Historic Sites
- Policy on Pesticide Reduction in State Parks and Historic Sites
- Camping Policy, Procedures and Reference Manual
- Employee Health and Safety and Agency Occupational Health and Safety.

Park Vision

Allegany State Park will be a place for the public to visit, enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers. A balance will be achieved between recreational use and the protection and interpretation of the biological, physical and cultural resources of the park.

Park Overall Goal

To provide a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities balanced with stewardship of the park's natural and cultural resources.

Natural and Physical Resource Goal

To identify, protect and interpret the natural resources of the park.

Recreation Resource Goal

To develop, maintain and operate high quality facilities, recreation opportunities and programs that are consistent with both the recreational needs of the patrons and the character of park resources.

Cultural Resource Goal

To identify, preserve, protect and interpret important historic, archaeological and cultural resources.

Scenic Resource Goal

To protect and maintain the scenic quality of the park, its vistas, landscapes and views of natural areas from adverse visual impacts from both outside and within the park.

Open Space Protection Goal

Continue to protect open space within the legislated boundary and adjacent to the park through acquisition consistent with the *2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan*, and through coordination of stewardship with partners.

Access Goal

To provide appropriate access to the park and its recreational, cultural and natural resources.

Education and Interpretation Goal

To provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.

Operation and Maintenance Goal

To continue to operate and maintain the park in a safe, clean, and sustainable manner that protects the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the park.

Facility Development and Capital Investment Goal

To develop, improve, and invest in the built infrastructure of the park to meet the needs of the recreation and operation goals of the park in a sustainable manner.

Communication and Partnership Goal

To increase coordination and planning efforts with the private sector and federal, state and local governments in providing recreational opportunities.

Inventory, Monitoring and Research Goal

To advance scientific research into the biological, physical, natural and cultural resources of the park.

Analysis & Alternatives

The Master Plan presents a series of "preferred alternatives" for future development and operation of Allegany State Park. Cumulatively, the actions described below present OPRHP's long-term vision for the enhancement of the park.

The Master Plan

The master plan considers the historic, natural and recreational resources of the park and responds to recreational needs and safety of park patrons, protection of cultural and natural resources and principles of sustainability. The plan sets forth a long-term vision to guide future development of new and enhanced park facilities. The initiation of each specific action will be determined by the level of funding available to OPRHP in future years.

Natural Resource Protection

The plan provides protection of natural resources through several means:

- The entire park is designated as a Natural Heritage Area and a Bird Conservation Area
- The designation of a Park Preservation Area
- Certain streams will continue to be managed for native Brook Trout as they are now
- Park staff will continue to take actions that protect park infrastructure threatened by stream bank erosion
- A monitoring program for Quaker Run and its tributaries will be developed
- Surveys for aquatic invasives in the park's lakes will begin and management recommendations will be made based on those studies
- Signage will be installed at all boat launches to educate users about aquatic invasives
- Periodic dredging of Quaker and Red House Lakes will continue, with the possibility of directing sediment flow away from the beach area
- Maintenance dredging of Science Lake will begin
- An invasive species management plan will be written for Allegany State Park
- Spring seeps and ephemeral wetlands in the park will be located and mapped
- The maintenance of existing open fields with periodic mowing will be continued

- Adherence to a "passive management" approach to the park's extensive forests, allowing natural processes and natural succession to govern the development of forest ecosystems, as set forth in statewide agency policy, commercial logging is prohibited in Allegany State Park
- Consistent with agency policy, the development of state-owned oil and gas resources is prohibited in the park. OPRHP will regulate any applications to develop privately-owned oil and gas resources underneath the park, and will evaluate opportunities to purchase such privately-owned rights in keeping with Priority Project #132 of the *2009 New York State Open Space Plan* (DEC, 2009)

Recreation Resource Development

Recreation facility development has been extensively reviewed and a number of recommendations made to enhance public recreation in the future:

- RV sites will replace some campsites at the Red House Camping area
- Red House and Cain Hollow areas will receive electrical system upgrades
- A primitive carry in-carry out camping area will be added at Cain Hollow
- Backpack camping will be allowed, by permit, in certain areas in Wolf Run
- A new loop of 5-10 cottages will be added on Bova Road above Camp Allegany
- Some additional new cottages will be constructed on Parallel trail
- Group Camp 5 will be rebuilt with barracks style accommodations and a new wash house
- Group Camp 12 cabins will be replaced with new ones of the same design, a new wash house and rehabilitated mess hall
- Camp Allegany will get utilities upgrades, rehabilitated barracks and mess hall and a study will be completed on the feasibility of integrating "green" building features
- A new horse corral will be built on the north side of ASP 3 for Camp Turner
- A new equestrian camping area will be developed at Group Camp 10, integrating it with the current area on the east side of ASP 2
- New equestrian staging areas will be built in the Bay State area, Bradford entrance and Rice Brook areas
- A new visitor and nature center will be built in the Beehunter area
- Bath houses at both swimming beaches will be upgraded and a study will be completed to determine the feasibility of reinstating diving at the Quaker Lake beach
- A picnic area will be formalized in the vicinity of Quaker beach.
- Two new picnic shelters will be constructed, one each in Quaker and Red House.
- Rest rooms at the picnic areas will be upgraded
- Court and field game facilities will be upgraded in Quaker and Red House
- A new basketball court will be developed in the Cain Hollow area
- Playground equipment that was removed in Red House will be replaced
- A new car top boat launch will be developed at the southern end of Quaker Lake.
- The water depth at the existing boat launch at Quaker Lake will be increased
- A boat rental concession will be developed near the Quaker beach
- The concession building at Red House will be rehabilitated
- Sanitary facilities and accessibility at the Friends Boat Launch will be improved
- The existing types of hunting opportunities will be maintained
- Special fishing restrictions (delayed harvest on some stream segments) will continue
- Active fish stocking will continue in selected stream segments and the lakes
- Ice fishing will continue on both Red House and Quaker Lakes

- Public access to fishing areas will be improved
- An additional accessible fishing platform will be developed at Red House Lake
- A formal sledding area will be designated in the Summit area with an expanded warming hut that will serve the cross country ski area as well

Trails

The ASP Final Trails Plan provides for approximately 227 miles of existing and proposed trails. The proposed trail system adds approximately 30 miles of undesignated trails and 50 miles of new trails to the existing designated trail system. Approximately 44 miles of undesignated trails would not be designated and would be officially closed.

Bikeways

- A new 7.6-mile Quaker Area Bikeway will be created between the Quaker Lake Bathhouse, Cain Hollow Campground, and Science Lake
- The 5.5-mile Red House Bikeway will be rehabilitated to meet OPRHP trail design standards
- A trail connection will be provided along Bova Road between the current terminus of the Red House Bikeway and the former Bova Ski Area for bicycling, skiing, and hiking, as well as for snowmobiling between the Red House Bikeway and the Gasline Trail.
- The Red House maintenance area road will become a trail from the Red House Bikeway west to ASP Route 2. The portion of this road that is currently closed will be rehabilitated for multiple trail uses, including bicycling and hiking.

Mountain Biking

- Designated mountain biking trails, which currently consist of 19 miles of cross country ski trails designated for mountain bike use, will be expanded by designating a total of approximately 58 miles of trails for biking
- Approximately 20 miles of new single-track, sustainably-built trails for mountain biking and hiking will be created. In addition, approximately three additional miles of undesignated trails will be designated for mountain biking and hiking to form approximately a 23-mile network of single-track mountain biking trails
- An additional two miles of shared use trails will be designated for mountain biking

Equestrian

- The park's network of designated trails that are open for equestrian use will be improved and expanded from approximately 35 to 67 miles of trails, reflecting existing use to a large degree
- Approximately 32 miles of existing designated trails will be retained for equestrian use
- Approximately 21 miles of trails currently used for but not designated for equestrian use will be added to the network
- Approximately ten miles of new trail will be created for equestrian use.
- Approximately three additional miles of roads will be designated for equestrian use, increasing the total road mileage open to horseback riding to about 15 miles.
- Approximately 20 miles of undesignated trails currently used by equestrians will be officially closed.
- The Camp Turner horse corral will be relocated to the north side of ASP Route 3 with provision for a small area of equestrian trails (approximately 1.3 miles) adjacent to the corral

- Two existing sections of trail designated for equestrian use will be relocated in the vicinity of Science Lake and Rice Brook

Hiking

- The park's network of designated trails open for hiking will be improved and expanded to include approximately 63 miles of trail for hiking only, 23 miles of trail for biking and hiking only, and 185 total miles of trail, both single use and shared use, available for hiking. The net increase will be approximately 17 miles for hiking only and 78 total miles of trail, both single use and shared use
- All park trails designated for summer use will remain open for summertime hiking, except for equestrian-only trails at Camp Turner.
- During the winter, the Art Roscoe Ski Touring Area and all designated snowmobile trails, except for the Red House Bikeway, will remain closed for hiking use.
- Approximately four miles of trail currently used only for hiking but not designated will be added as hiking-only trails.
- Approximately 10 miles of new trail will be added as hiking-only trails
- Approximately 20 miles of undesignated trails currently used only by hikers will be closed.

Cross Country Skiing

- The existing 19-mile network of groomed ski trails will continue to be maintained and groomed exclusively for cross country ski use in the winter.
- The Art Roscoe Ski Touring Area will be rehabilitated and upgraded by improving drainage, leveling trails, rehabilitating or replacing culverts, and reconstructing the Ridge Lean-to as a shelter for day use

Snowmobiling

- The park's network of designated snowmobile trails will be expanded by approximately 20 miles to include approximately 88 miles of trail
- Approximately 15 miles of existing trails not currently designated for snowmobiling will be added. This includes the seasonal portion of Coon Run Road, formalizing this existing connection with Pennsylvania
- Approximately five miles of new trail will be added.
- The plan proposes future trail connections to areas outside of the park.
- An additional connection eastward into the Town of Carrollton may be established upon completion of the Irvine Mills Road bridge

Trailheads and Parking

The Trails Plan identifies existing and proposed parking areas throughout the park, many of which currently provide access to the trail system. Of the 107 existing parking areas identified, 17 will be expanded and two of the informal roadside pull-offs will not be designated for parking. Four new parking areas will be created. Ultimately, parking will be expanded and formalized to include 34 designated parking lots and 75 designated areas of roadside parking, increasing the capacity from an estimated 1300 cars to approximately 1559 cars. The most significant increases in parking capacity will be at the following locations, referenced in Figure 10 and Table 5 of the Trails Plan (Appendix B):

- Red House Bikeway and proposed Wetland Nature Trailhead on the current Red House Area maintenance road

- Proposed Visitor Center with associated nature trails
- Wolf Run Trailhead
- Proposed equestrian staging area on Bay State Road
- Proposed parking for the North Country Trail
- Butterfly Meadow Trail
- Proposed staging area on Parkside Drive
- Proposed staging area near the Bradford contact station
- Proposed Quaker Mountain Trailhead and Quaker Area Bikeway parking at the Quaker Area recycling center
- Quaker Area Bikeway parking on Cain Hollow Road
- Proposed Fernwood Trailhead parking on Holts Run Road

Interpretation and Education

Interpretive trails include:

- Wetland Nature Trail, which forms a loop using the Red House Bikeway and the current Red House Area maintenance road.
- Butterfly Meadow Trail, being built along ASP Route 2 near Camp Allegany
- A series of nature trail loops extending southward from the proposed Visitor Center, including a “Wildflower Loop”, “Raspberry Loop”, and “Hemlock Loop”
- Big Tree Trail, located adjacent to ASP Route 1 in the center of the park
- Cain Hollow Nature Trail, located above the Cain Hollow Campground
- Allegany School of Natural History Trail, which forms a loop using the Quaker Area Bikeway and the Blacksnake Mountain Access Trail
- Science Lake Nature Trail, located adjacent to Science Lake and forming a loop using the existing snowmobile trail
- Little Ireland Interpretive Trail, which uses a portion of the Irish Brook Trail through the Little Ireland historic site.

Cultural Resource Protection

Allegany State Park is an integral part of the history of the Cattaraugus County region. As such the protection and interpretation of the cultural resources found there is also an important part of the master plan

- Protection of the archaeological resources will be accomplished on a case by case basis where ground disturbance is anticipated to develop a project
- Historic structures will be maintained and restored according to the recommendations of the memorandum of resolution from the Field Services Bureau (Appendix H)
- Cultural resource interpretation will be enhanced at the new visitor center

Infrastructure, Operations and Maintenance

- The regional maintenance center will phase into using the area above the carpenter shop west of Quaker Run with new facilities
- The building and sawmill equipment will be stabilized to preserve and protect them. The history of this resource will be interpreted through guided tours
- A new premier park entrance and new building with camper registration facilities will be constructed at the park entrance from the Southern Tier Expressway on ASP 2

- The Red House maintenance facility will be moved to the new location adjacent to the sawmill. The history and natural resources of the current site will be interpreted using kiosks and signage
- The storage and work areas at the Quaker maintenance facility will be expanded
- The Quaker administration building will be improved to provide accessible restrooms
- An historic structures report will be written for the Regional Administration Building to guide future restoration and capital improvements

Implementation

Implementation of all of the above actions will require substantial investment of state funds, along with additional funding from other public and private sources. While implementation of certain actions will begin 2010, OPRHP anticipates it will require ten to fifteen years – and perhaps longer – to accomplish all of the actions recommended in the plan. The implementation of the Master Plan for Allegany State Park is divided into three priority phases (Table 1). The initiation and completion of these priority phases will depend upon funding and demand and will be balanced with the need to make ongoing capital investments to maintain and rehabilitate the park's roads, bridges, utilities, buildings, and infrastructure. The priorities groupings are conceptual and subject to reorganization based on available funding for specific components of any given group. Maintenance projects will be prioritized and scheduled in the three phases by the capital facilities manager.

Table 1 Implementation Priorities (Capital Improvements in *Italics*)

Implementation Priorities	Description/Development Component
Priority 1:	• Stream Water Quality Monitoring • Maintenance Dredging of Lakes • Invasive Species Management Plan • *Improve Red House RV dump station* • *Upgrade electric service to Red House and Cain Hollow Camping Areas* • *Continue to upgrade wash houses in Red House and Cain Hollow Camping areas* • *Dish washing stations at wash houses* • *Improve roads and drainage at Red House and Cain Hollow Camping areas* • *New wash house at Group Camp 5* • *New barracks accommodations at Group Camp 5* • *New corral area at Camp Turner on north side of ASP 3* • Upgrade court and field areas • *Replace Red House playground equipment* • Deepen existing boat launch at Quaker Lake • Designate formal sledding area in the Summit area • *Expand Summit warming hut* • *Continue to move Regional Maintenance Area uphill above the Carpenter's workshop* • *Add accessible restroom to Quaker Administration Building* • Designate back pack camping area in Wolf Run • Develop Historic Structures Report and continue capital projects at Regional Administration Building • Implement the Trails Plan • *Rebuild Science Lake dam*
Priority 2:	• Reduce density at Red House campsites • *New wash house and rehabilitated mess hall at Group Camp 12* • *Rehabilitate structures and utilities at Camp Allegany* • *New Visitor/Nature center* • *New equestrian camping center at Group Camp 10* • *Upgrade Quaker and Red House bath houses* • *New picnic shelters* • *New basketball courts at Cain Hollow* • *New cartop boat launch at southern end of Quaker Lake* • *Improve sanitary facilities and accessibility at Friends Boat Launch* • Develop and implement guidelines for vista point management • Improve Stone Tower and Summit Fire Tower vistas

Implementation Priorities	Description/Development Component
Priority 2 (cont'd)	• *Stabilize Sawmill* • Designate primitive camping area in Cain Hollow • *Rehab Red House dam*
Priority 3:	• *Premier park entrance on ASP 2* • Dredging of Lakes • *Rehab Quaker Lake dam* • *Bear proof refuse/recycling station at Red House camping area* • *Develop new cottage loop on Bova Road above Camp Allegany* • *Build new cabins at Group Camp 12* • *Install landscaping and drainage improvements at Group Camp 12* • *Develop equestrian staging areas at Bay State, Bradford entrance and Rice Brook* • *Develop boat rental near Quaker Lake beach* • *Stabilize Mt. Tuscarora tower for preservation* • *Storage and employee work area at Quaker Maintenance Facility*

Environmental Impacts

Environmental Impacts associated with implementation of the Master Plan have been addressed under the following general areas: land, water, air, biological resources/ecology, historic and archeological resources, scenic resources, recreation/open space, public health and safety, and energy, noise and odor.

The plan will result in some physical change to the land, particularly where new recreation facilities and trails will be constructed. Most new recreation facilities will be located in areas of the park that are already developed and will require minimal land disturbance. Most of the increased parking will be accomplished through formalizing or restriping existing areas or slightly enlarging existing pull-offs. Pervious pavements will be used wherever possible. Some new facilities and trails will be located in areas where the soils and slopes combine to pose a potential moderate to severe hazard for erosion. Careful site-specific planning will be applied in these areas to minimize erosion potential. Erosion control and storm water management techniques will be incorporated into site specific designs for all construction projects that will disturb park soils. Some measures anticipated to be used include minimizing soil disturbance and vegetation clearing, the use of silt fencing and straw bales, preservation of vegetated buffers and seeding of disturbed areas as soon as possible following work.

Master Plan implementation will result in beneficial impacts to park water resources by relocation of the Regional Maintenance center away from Quaker Run and the Red House Maintenance center away from Red House Creek. Stream monitoring in the park will be conducted to obtain baseline information on park streams and to be able to detect changes in water quality associated with construction. Continued periodic maintenance dredging as needed is proposed for all three of the man-made lakes in the park. This will improve the water quality and recreation opportunities of the lakes and reduce turbidity issues at the Red House Lake Beach. Temporary adverse impacts

associated with maintenance dredging will be addressed through DEC and Corps of Engineers permit processes. Park streams could be impacted by proposed facility development projects or trail improvements or construction. Erosion control and stormwater management techniques as discussed above will be incorporated into site designs and a 100 foot buffer will be retained, where possible, between proposed new developments and streams. Buffer plantings may also be incorporated in some areas. Site specific design for new trails will seek to minimize the number of stream crossings and provide buffers between trails and water bodies. All trail work will be undertaken using established guidelines from trail maintenance manuals and consultation with other agencies will occur as needed. Eurasian water milfoil has been identified in Quaker and Red House Lakes. A more detailed survey will be conducted to determine the location and extent of these invasive plants and steps will be taken to remove them from the lakes. Development of oil and gas resources beneath park lands also has the potential to impact park water resources. The agency's policy, protocol, permit and environmental review processes will be used to minimize any potential impacts to park resources.

The importance of the park's natural resources has been recognized in the designation of the entire park as a Bird Conservation Area and a Natural Heritage area. These designations will bring additional recognition, potential increased visitation by eco-tourists and possible funding opportunities especially for environmental interpretation. A large area of the park has also been identified as a Park Preservation Area under Article 20 of the state Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. This designation will provide additional recognition to the importance of these areas and provide an additional natural resource protection in these areas.

The proposed master plan and trails plan represents a balance between recreation and stewardship of the park's natural resources. Most of the proposed new facility development in the plan will not impact the park's significant ecological communities. Approximately 57 acres will be modified within the roughly 65,000 acre park (about .09%). This amount will likely be reduced during actual site design of trails and facilities. In accordance will agency policy, tree removal will be minimized. New trails proposed could impact park wildlife either directly through trail construction or indirectly though the effects associated with the trail uses. New proposed trails are in areas of the park that are already used by the public. The park contains some large forested areas that have no roads and are considered important to maintain dynamic ecological processes as well as to provide habitat for wildlife species more sensitive to disturbances. Site specific design of all proposed new facilities and trails will include surveys for rare plants and animals. An invasive species management plan will be developed for the park which will help inventory invasive species and prioritize removal projects. The Agency will continue to work with NYSDEC and NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets to address the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive forest pests.

The Master Plan recognizes and protects the important historic and archeological resources within Allegany State Park. Structures that are considered as contributing to the park's eligibility for the National Register will be protected by following the recommendations identified in a memorandum from the Agency's Field Services Bureau (FSB). Ground disturbing activities that are not considered categorical exclusions will require consultation with the FSB to determine if additional archeological surveys are needed.

The park's significant scenic resources will be protected and maintained through Master Plan implementation. The plan proposes continued maintenance of designated scenic vistas throughout the park. The master plan will result in substantial beneficial recreation and open space impacts through improved and expanded recreation facilities and visitor amenities such as a new park visitor and interpretation center, new premier entrance providing park information and camper registration services, new cottages, picnic shelter, bikeway, and boating facilities. The Trails Plan will result in a

better organized and maintained trail system, some new recreational opportunities such as single track mountain bike trails, a variety of trail lengths and difficulties for patrons of different abilities and additional interpretive trails. Traffic circulation and public safety will be improved through construction of the premier entrance at Red House which will remove congestion and large trailers from the Red House Administration building area, and construction of the Quaker Bikeway which will provide a safe path for families on bicycles in the Quaker area of the park. New facilities will be designed to meet all applicable health and safety codes as well as incorporate sustainability principals and energy efficiency.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Planning and Environmental Review

Principles: The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) planning process adheres to three basic principles:

1. Planning must be coordinated and provide for public participation: input from various sources is important.
2. Planning is a continuing process: Assumptions for the classification and management of park resources must be constantly reevaluated in light of new information, changing needs and priorities, and resource character.
3. Planning must be comprehensive: The information base, and pertinent additional research, should support the planning process and should encompass relevant social, economic and physical factors relating to the management and operation of the park and its resources.

SEQR: The environmental review of proposed master plans for state park facilities is conducted in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). OPRHP fully integrates the planning and environmental review processes. This document serves as both the Master Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement for Allegany State Park.

Sustainability: Sustainability is a philosophy on how to improve, operate and maintain State Parks and Historic Sites, while at the same time, minimizing or reducing the impacts of State Parks and Historic Sites have on the natural environment.

Sustainability looks at the whole rather than the individual parts to maximize energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact; reduce use of fossil fuels; reduce or eliminate hazardous substances; protect biodiversity and ecosystems; and use resources carefully, respectfully and efficiently to meet current needs without compromising the needs of other living creatures and the use of those resources by future generations.

OPRHP is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming more carbon neutral by adopting more sustainable practices in park development, improvement, operation and maintenance. Throughout this Master Plan, sustainable practices and alternatives were incorporated and considered in the analysis, master plan and implementation sections and also during the development of the document.

Q&A About This Plan

Q - What is the action?
A - The action is the adoption and implementation of a Master Plan for Allegany State Park.

Q - Who is proposing to do this?
A - The Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is proposing this action.

Q - How much opportunity has there been for public participation?
A - Two public information meetings were held to gather information, concerns and issues surrounding the development and management of Allegany State Park.

Two Public hearings were held on May 12, 2010 in Salamanca, New York and on May 13, 2010 in Buffalo, New York to allow the public, interest groups, and state and local government agencies the opportunity to provide comments on the draft plan.

Q - What has been decided?
A - The Commissioner has decided that a Master Plan/EIS is necessary to guide the management and development of the resources at Allegany State Park. At this time, the Commissioner has also decided that the plan be made available for public review and comment. There has not been any decision regarding the adoption of the Master Plan/EIS.

Introduction to the Park

Establishment of the Park

Allegany State Park was established in 1921 through an Act by the New York State legislature. The Act, Chapter 468 of the Laws of 1921, established the boundary of the park, a park commission, cooperation with the state of Pennsylvania in terms of adjacent parkland acquisition, and powers of the park commission.

In July, 1921 a formal dedication of the opening of Allegany State Park took place in the newly acquired 7000 + acre Quaker Area (known as Frecks Area). In 1924 the state park bond act provided much of the funding for further acquisition and the early development of Allegany State Park.

For a more detailed history and timeline of the park see Appendix C.

Previous Planning Efforts

Allegany State Park was created in 1921 and the first plan for the park was completed in 1922.

Early plans in the 1920's and 1930's laid out the locations for Science Lake, Red House Lake, group camps, and the location of what is now the Administration building.

A planning process was initiated in the 1980's that produced a draft master plan in the 1990's. That draft plan was never finalized or adopted.

What has prompted the preparation of this plan?

Allegany State Park is the largest state park in the New York State park system and is the most highly visited park in the Allegany Park Region. Resource protection, increased numbers of park users, development pressures around the park, user demands and user group interactions have inspired the need for a master plan for this park.

OPRHP will rely on the plan to provide long term guidance for management and development of the park for today and the next generation of management.

Chapter 2: Park Background

Location and Access

Allegany State Park is located in the OPRHP Allegany Region[1] and lies within Cattaraugus County (Figure 1). The park is bordered on the south by the New York/Pennsylvania state line (Allegheny National Forest's northern boundary), on the west, north and northeast by the Seneca Nation of Indians Allegany Reservation (including the City of Salamanca and the Allegheny Reservoir), and on the east by the CSX Railroad right-of-way and the Village of Limestone (Figure 2).

Vehicular access to the park is through three exits off Interstate 86 (The Southern Tier Expressway), Route 219 in the Village of Limestone, and two entrances in the southern part of the park from Pennsylvania. The eastern south entrance is from Bradford, PA on Interstate Highway. The western entrance from Pennsylvania is on Coon Run Rd (Wolf Run Rd in PA) coming north from Pennsylvania Route 346 (Washington Street).

For hikers, the Finger Lakes Trail (North Country Trail) transverses the park from the south at the Pennsylvania state line, north to Bay State Road. Bicycle and pedestrian access is limited in the Interstate 86 corridor but is available in the City of Salamanca at State Park Avenue, and Parkway Drive. Bicycle and pedestrian access is also available through the entrance at the Village of Limestone and the two southern entrances.

Economic Contribution (Impact of the Park)

One of the major components of a park's economic impact is the extent to which the park attracts new visitors to the area. Allegany State Park provides an array of recreational and natural resource opportunities that attract approximately 1.5 million visitors each year. Based upon data collected from the 2007 OPRHP Visitor Survey and other sources, only 13% of these visitors live in the three-county OPRHP Allegany Region. The largest number of visitors (72%) is from the OPRHP Niagara Region, which includes Buffalo and Niagara Falls. The remaining 15% of visitors to the park are from the rest of New York State and out-of-state. This visitation from outside the three-county Allegany Region generates important tourist expenditures and employment opportunities in the region.

Many park users are day visitors and are visiting the park as part of an extended vacation trip, using some form of nearby lodging. Thus, in a tourist region such as Allegany, both day and overnight visitors can be expected to spend substantial amounts of money during their trip.

Allegany State Park draws visitors to other businesses in Cattaraugus County and the expenditures at these locations impact the local economy. Although the greatest proportion of attendance occurs from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Allegany State Park is a year-round facility generating economic benefits that contribute to a stable year-round economy. With over 90 miles of snowmobile trails, 21 miles of cross-country skiing trails, and hunting permitted in-season, attendance outside of the summer months helps to maintain a steady year-round stimulus to the economy. A 2003 snowmobile study by OPRHP showed that the majority of people using snowmobiles within the Allegany OPRHP region were visitors from other areas, mostly from the Niagara Region and from out-of-state.

[1] The OPRHP Allegany region consists of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. Other parks in this region are Long Point State Park, Midway State Park, and Lake Erie State Park.

In March 2009, a study prepared for Parks & Trails New York by the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) (Heintz et.al., 2009), University of Massachusetts-Amherst, found that the combination of annual state and visitor spending at all New York State Parks supports up to $1.9 billion in economic output and business sales and up to 20,000 jobs throughout the state. For the three-county Allegany Region, which includes Allegany State Park, the figures are $62 million and 860 jobs. OPRHP expenditures in the Allegany Region during fiscal year 2008/09 were $9.6 million for operating expenses and $4.5 million for capital expenditures. Park visitor expenditures within the Allegany Region were estimated to be between $33.7 million and $69.3 million annually.

OPRHP has also conducted an internal analysis of the economic impact of individual state parks on their communities. Drawing upon information provided by the National Park Service in their "Money Generation Model" and from the 2007 Park Visitor Survey, OPRHP estimates that Allegany State Park has an annual impact on the local economy of $60.7 million. This is sufficient to create approximately 851 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs and generate approximately $2.5 million dollars in local sales tax revenues. The OPRHP analysis, if extrapolated to the entire OPRHP Allegany Region, would result in a slightly larger economic impact. Therefore, while the PERI analysis was calculated for the entire Allegany region and the OPRHP analysis was calculated for just Allegany State Park, the PERI study corroborates the OPRHP analysis.

Initially, implementation of the recommended projects in the Master Plan will result in a modest impact in the region because of the increase in State spending for construction of improved facilities. While expenditures for these improvements will have a small economic impact on the local economy, the long-term effect on the region around Allegany will be primarily in the form of increased tourism. The improvements proposed in this master plan will make Allegany State Park a more attractive destination for tourists. These tourists will create an economic impact through purchases of goods and services which provides direct income to local businesses and individuals. These local businesses and individuals, in turn, circulate this money through the local economy, obtaining the supplies, etc. that they need. This is the total economic impact caused by indirect and induced sales. Both of these economic activities generate jobs and additional tax revenues for local governments. It should be kept in mind, however, that there are other factors outside the control of OPRHP, such as the price of gasoline and the overall state of the economy, which will influence these impacts.

Recreational Needs Assessment

Allegany State Park is a large regional park. Results of a user survey conducted by OPRHP in the summer of 2009 show that 72% of the park's users come from the Allegany and Niagara OPRHP regions. The five counties of these two OPRHP regions therefore constitute the park's service area (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara). Fifteen percent of visitors come from other places within New York State and the remaining 13% of visitors come from outside New York State including Ontario, Pennsylvania and Ohio (Table 2).

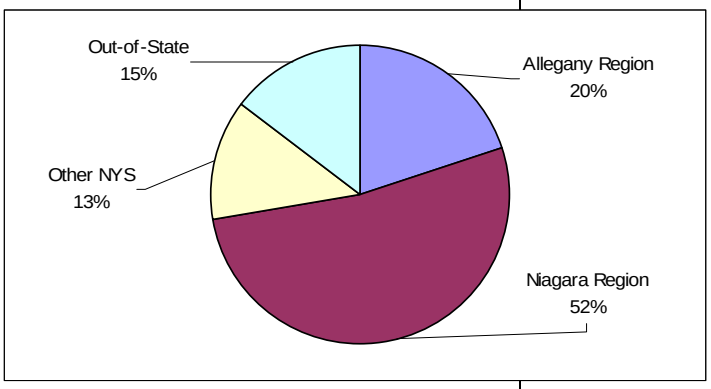
Table 2 Origin Results of 2009 User Survey

Origins of Allegany SP Visitors (Combined totals from all 4 surveys, not weighted)

County	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Allegany	2	0.82%	0.93%
Broome	1	0.41%	0.46%
Cattaraugus	27	11.07%	12.50%
Chautauqua	14	5.74%	6.48%
Chemung	1	0.41%	0.46%
Erie	93	38.11%	43.06%
Genesee	4	1.64%	1.85%
Livingston	3	1.23%	1.39%
Monroe	8	3.28%	3.70%
Niagara	20	8.20%	9.26%
Onondaga	3	1.23%	1.39%
Ontario	5	2.05%	2.31%
Steuben	1	0.41%	0.46%
Suffolk	1	0.41%	0.46%
Wayne	1	0.41%	0.46%
Delaware	1	0.41%	0.46%
Florida	1	0.41%	0.46%
Indiana	1	0.41%	0.46%
Maryland	1	0.41%	0.46%
Michigan	1	0.41%	0.46%
Missouri	1	0.41%	0.46%
North Carolina	2	0.82%	0.93%
Ohio	7	2.87%	3.24%
Pennsylvania	7	2.87%	3.24%
Texas	1	0.41%	0.46%
Virginia	1	0.41%	0.46%
West Virginia	1	0.41%	0.46%
Ontario	5	2.05%	2.31%
Canada	2	0.82%	0.93%
Total Known	216	88.52%	100.00%
ZZ_Unknown	28	11.48%	
Total	244	100.00%	

Summary of Known Origin

Location	# of Surveys	Percent
Allegany Region	43	19.91%
Niagara Region	113	52.31%
Other NYS	28	12.96%
Out-of-State	32	14.81%
Total	216	100.00%



Allegany State Park is part of a very large and complex contiguous outdoor recreation region that has been identified as the "Alleghenies." Over 750,000 acres are available for public outdoor recreation at Allegany State Park, the Allegheny National Forest, the Allegheny Reservoir, the Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians, and nearby publicly owned land. This large amount of land and the variety of visitor service facilities within and surrounding this complex, make the "Alleghenies" one of the major extended stay destination areas in the eastern United States.

There are a wide variety of recreational facilities and activities in the vicinity of Allegany State Park including several multi-use facilities that provide for summer and winter use. The Allegany State Park Region includes four State Parks -- Allegany, Lake Erie, Midway and Long Point. There are also numerous county, municipal and private recreation facilities in the area.

In Cattaraugus County, outdoor recreational facilities provide year-round activities, with peak use patterns occurring in June through August and December through February. The major summer recreation facilities are Allegany State Park, the county-owned Onoville Marina/Campground and the Allegheny River and Reservoir. Other summer recreation facilities include campgrounds, public/private golf courses, lakes, one geological park, equestrian facilities, numerous streams with public access areas, and municipal picnic/recreation areas. During the winter, commercial downhill and Nordic ski areas, snowmobile, cross country ski, hiking and snowshoeing trail systems, along with ice fishing and ice skating facilities, provide recreational opportunities.

The main emphasis of recreational facility development in the region has been directed toward attracting nonresidents, primarily due to their high expenditure rates. It should be noted however that when expenditure rates are examined closely, residents spend greater dollar amounts on activities such as skiing, boating, and snowmobiling, while nonresidents spend more or equal amounts on camping and hunting.

Table 3 illustrates an inventory of recreation facilities available in the Allegany Region. The inventory includes both public and privately operated recreation facilities.

Table 3 Recreational Facility Inventory - Allegany Region*

FACILITY	NUMBER
Campgrounds	161
Beaches	97
Pools	29
Cartop Boat Launches	15
Boat Ramps	86
Places with Rowboats	53
Picnic Areas	179
Tennis Facilities	29
Basketball Facilities	86
Golf Facilities	36
Ski Areas	12

* Source: New York Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – (OPRHP, 2008)

This Master Plan relies on the 2009 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and OPRHP visitor survey data to provide an estimate of the recreational needs for the service area for the park. SCORP assesses the statewide supply and demand for recreational resources.

The Relative Index of Needs (RIN) in SCORP assigns a number to each type of recreational activity by considering the supply of recreational facilities and the demand for those facilities now, and

estimating how that demand, compared to the current supply, will change in the future. (In SCORP, the target year for the future is 2025.) Numbers are calculated for each county in the state.

The Relative Index of Need for the service area of Allegany State Park (Table 4) shows the RIN numbers for the five counties in the service area (10 being the highest need and 1 being the lowest). The weighted scores illustrate that the activities with highest relative index of need in the service area are, in descending order: hiking, cross county skiing, swimming, equine activities, walking for pleasure, fishing, boating, golfing, biking, snowmobiling, and downhill skiing. These are the activities that will, over the period 2005 to 2025 experience the greatest growth in the five county region relative to the existing supply of resources (OPRHP, 2008).

Table 4 Projected Relative Index of Needs

Activity	Allegany	Chautauqua	Cattaraugus	Erie	Niagara	Weighted Average
Relaxing in the Park	4	3	3	3	3	3.0
Swimming	**4**	**4**	**4**	**7**	**6**	**6.2**
Biking	**3**	**3**	**3**	**7**	**5**	**5.3**
Golfing	**4**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**5**	**5.6**
Walking for pleasure	**2**	**3**	**2**	**7**	**6**	**6.0**
Tennis	3	4	3	4	4	3.9
Court Games	4	3	4	3	4	3.3
Field Games	6	4	4	3	4	3.5
Equine Activities	**4**	**4**	**4**	**8**	**7**	**6.1**
Visiting Historic Sites	3	4	3	3	3	3.1
Camping	4	4	4	6	5	4.7
Hiking	**4**	**5**	**4**	**10**	**9**	**8.1**
Boating	**6**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**5.6**
Fishing	**5**	**4**	**4**	**7**	**5**	**5.8**
Local Winter	5	4	6	4	5	4.4
X-Country Skiing	**4**	**5**	**4**	**10**	**9**	**7.9**
Downhill Skiing	**4**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**5**	**5.1**
Snowmobile	**5**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**5.2**

***Source: State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013 (OPRHP, 2008)**

For this analysis, no change in the supply of facilities was assumed other than that necessary to replace existing facilities as they became obsolete. Thus the needs projections for each activity through the next twenty years presented in Table 4 reflect the extent that total demand for the activity is changing. The county figures in this table are most useful for comparing relative needs for each activity between counties. Comparisons between activities should recognize the effects of the variations in the availability of those activities.

Adjacent Land Uses

Allegheny Reservoir. The Allegheny Reservoir, created in 1965 by the construction of the Kinzua Dam, is located along part of the western boundary of Allegany State Park. It spans the border between Pennsylvania and New York State providing a summer pool length of 24.2 miles, 12,080 acres, and approximately 90 miles of shoreline. The reservoir is completely surrounded by the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania and in New York State by Allegany State Park and the Seneca Nation of Indians Allegany Reservation. In addition to the primary purposes of flood control, navigation, power, and pollution abatement, the Allegheny Reservoir provides numerous year-round recreational opportunities.

Allegany State Park provides the only area of public access onto the Allegheny Reservoir along the eastern shoreline in New York State. The Friends boat launch site, constructed in 1987 and operated by OPRHP under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), provides boating and fishing access to the Reservoir. This site was made available to the park until the year 2025, through license agreement with ACOE.

Allegheny National Forest. Pennsylvania's only National Forest adjoins Allegany State Park's southern boundary and provides approximately 500,000 acres for a variety of recreation opportunities. Many miles of trails exist for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and a limited amount of ATV use. Other recreational opportunities include boating, fishing, equestrian, swimming, hiking, hunting, and camping. Eighteen campgrounds of varying sizes and facilities are available. Some camping areas provide campsites suitable for trailers, motor homes and tents, while other campgrounds are only accessible by either hiking or boating. Other developed recreation facilities include four beaches, six boat launches, three scenic overlooks and nine picnicking areas. Many of these facilities are located around the Allegheny Reservoir.

Much of the Allegheny National Forest land is managed for timber production. The Nation's oil industry began 125 years ago within a few miles of the Allegheny National Forest. To date, 10 percent of the forest's surface area has been impacted for oil and gas production. Almost 96 percent of the oil, gas, and mineral rights under the Forest are owned by the private sector. (USDA, 1986).

The City of Salamanca, adjacent to a portion of the Allegany State Park's north-central border, is located within the Allegany Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians. The city has a population of approximately 5.600 as of July 2008. This is an 8.3% decline since the 2000 census. Leading businesses in the city include: custom store fixtures, and laser-engraved flexigraphic printing cylinders; fabricating carbon steel electric welded tubing; contract plastic injection moldings. The city has also developed as an Antique sales center.

The Seneca Nation of Indians. The Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians adjoins Allegany State Park. This land is generally undeveloped except for individual residences and camps.

Village of Limestone/Eastern Park Boundary. (NOTE: As of January 1, 2011, the village will be dissolved into the town of Carrolton, following the successful passage of a referendum on September 28, 2009.) The Village of Limestone is a small rural community with access to Allegany State Park on Limestone Run Road. Rt. 219, a north-south transportation corridor, is located just outside the eastern boundary of the park.

The southern half of Allegany State Park's eastern boundary is defined by the CSX Railroad right-of way and the Village of Limestone. Private lands adjoining the Park's eastern boundary and private lands within the park's legislative boundary (between the railroad right-of-way and Tunungwant Creek) are either undeveloped or used for farming or individual residences and seasonal camps.

Much of the land along the eastern portion of the park has a long history of oil and gas industry. Numerous wells outside the park boundary have been drilled in those areas and continue to have an economic impact.

City of Bradford/Pennsylvania. The land adjoining the eastern portion of Allegany State Park's southern boundary (east of the Allegheny National Forest) is privately owned. While most of the land is undeveloped, individual residences and camps exist in the area. Oil and gas exploration/development and logging has also taken place in this area.

The City of Bradford, Pennsylvania, located approximately 5 miles south of the park, accesses the park via Interstate Parkway and the estimated population in 2003 was 8,800.

Legal Constraints, Designations and Other Programs

Deed Restrictions

Easements. Several road and utility easements exist in the park. Development is restricted in each case according to the individual easement agreement.

- Windstream Telephone Company R.O.W.
- New York Telephone R.O.W.
- National Fuel Gas transmission lines, gas storage lease access roads, and storage
- Atlantic Broadband R.O.W.
- National Grid Transmission Line
- Towns of Carrollton, Red House, Cold Spring and Salamanca Road R.O.W.
- Rt. 280 Road R.O.W.
- Southern Tier Expressway - Road R.O.W.

In-holdings

There are private in-holdings still in existence within the legislative boundary of the park. Most of these are in the eastern portion of the park but smaller in-holdings also exist in the Bay State Area and along the northern and western boundary. Most of the in-holdings are undeveloped, while a few have individual residences and camps. (Figure 2)

Partnerships

Allegany State Park and the Allegany State Park Region have a variety of working agreements with other agencies and volunteer organizations. Among these cooperative partners are Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), National Forest Service (NFS), Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC).

Chapter 3: Environmental Setting

Physical Resources

Land, Geology and Soils

Allegany State Park occupies approximately 100 square miles of Cattaraugus County in southwestern New York State.

The park lies entirely on the northern edge of the Allegheny Plateau which is characterized by high, steep, ridge-like hills and deep valleys with narrow bottoms. The bedrock formations consist of nearly horizontally-laid beds of shales, sandstones, and conglomerates. (Figure 3)

The park is in a portion of New York State known as the Salamanca Re-entrant. This portion of the state was never reached by the last Wisconsin Ice Sheet. As a result, the terrain was not modified by the effects of glaciers (ice erosion or morainal deposition). The flow of the Allegheny River resulted in deep stream down cutting, forming steep valley sides superimposed upon a relatively level upland terrain. The resistance to weathering, characteristic of the sandstones, contributes to the ruggedness of the landscape within the park. Exposures of these materials have created interesting features throughout the park, particularly Thunder Rocks (house-sized blocks of Olean conglomerate rock) and Bear Caves.

The topography (Figure 4) of Allegany State Park consists in general of rolling hills dissected by streams, many of which are intermittent, especially at higher elevations. Figure 5 depicts the slope characteristics and the percent of the park they cover by the following categories: 0 to 3%, 3 to 8%, 8 to 15%, 15 to 25%, 25 to 35%, and 35 to 50%.

The park's soils are residual except in the valley bottoms and on the steepest slopes. The predominance of sandstones and conglomerates as parent material for the park soils has resulted in relatively stony, course-textured, moderately deep, well-drained soils of moderate to low fertility.

The five most prevalent soils, occurring on just over 45% of the acres in the park, are Carollton channery silt loam (12.5%), Mandy channery silt loam (10.2%), Onoville silt loam (8.0%), Kinzua channery silt loam (7.7%) and Rayne channery silt loam (6.9%). Table 5 describes the limitation of these soils as to erodability (Figure 6) for trails. Other less common soils in the park are also limited for trail development due to moderate to severe erodability. (Puglia, 2007)

Table 5 Soil erodability for trails

Soil Type	Percent Slope Erodability					
	0-3%	3-8%	8-15%	15-25%	25-35%	35-50%
Carolloton channery silt loam	n/a	Moderate	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Kinzua channery silt loam	n/a	Moderate	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Mandy channery silt loam	n/a	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Severe	Severe
Onoville silt loam	n/a	Moderate	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Rayne channery silt loam	n/a	n/a	n/a	Severe	Severe	Severe

Water

Streams. Approximately 64 miles of fresh water streams, plus many smaller tributaries, with distinct watersheds form the major drainage courses in the park (Cornett, 1996). These flow into the Allegheny River and are fed by many small and intermittent creeks. The Allegheny River (including the Allegheny Reservoir) is the major drainage in the region, surrounding the northeastern, northern, and western sections of the park. (Figure 7). The largest streams in the park are Red House Creek and Quaker Run. Each of these streams has several smaller streams feeding it. Many of the streams fall completely within the park and are relatively protected from outside development and pollution. Several tributaries of Quaker Run, however, have their headwaters in Pennsylvania where there has been considerable recent oil and gas development activity. A 1996 report by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) (Cornett, 1996) indicated that most of the streams in the park are home to native brook trout and that the park contains the highest concentration of wild brook trout streams completely in public ownership in western New York State. It was noted that brook trout dominate most of the park's streams because of the excellent water quality and habitat conditions. DEC's stream biomonitoring unit also sampled Quaker Run and Red House Brook in 2001 and found the water quality to be non-impacted. The macroinvertebrate fauna was dominated by clean-water mayflies, with stoneflies and caddisflies well represented in both streams (Bode et. al., 2004). The New York Natural Heritage Program (Evans et al., 2004) identified three stream communities of statewide significance in Allegany State Park. The report also indicated that because the landscape of the park remains relatively intact and the park is managed primarily as a natural area, it is likely that several additional outstanding streams exist within the park.

Lakes. There are no natural lakes in the park. The park's three man-made lakes (Red House Lake - 120 acres, Quaker Lake - 275 acres, and Science Lake - 7 acres) offer a variety of water oriented activities. Cornett (Cornett, 2009) estimates at least 22,500 angler trips on both lakes combined. Water quality monitoring of the park's lakes was conducted by OPRHP in 2000, 2001, and 2003. Depth profiles for the following water quality parameters were conducted: dissolved oxygen, temperature pH, conductivity, alkalinity and turbidity. Transparency was recorded as secchi disk depth. In 2003, nitrate, total phosphorus and phytoplankton were added to the monitoring protocol. Additional monitoring of aquatic plants was conducted during the summer of 2009. Following is a summary of the results of the monitoring (EMB, 2006).

Quaker Lake, the newest of the park's lakes, was created in 1968. Based on analysis of data, this lake has been characterized as meso-oligotrophic, providing a suitable environment for both swimming and fishing. Productivity is relatively low and does not impair recreational uses. Quaker Lake has relatively high water clarity averaging 3.6m, which is consistent with safe swimming at the lake's bathing beach and serves as an indicator of high aesthetic value of the lake. However, waterfowl populations, primarily Canada Geese, have the potential to influence bacterial levels in the bathing area of Quaker Lake and should be routinely monitored and controlled (EMB, 2006). The 2009 plant survey identified one invasive aquatic species – Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) as being present in the lake but fairly sparse (EMB, 2009). The outflow from Quaker Lake provides additional water access from within the park to the Allegheny Reservoir.

The Quaker Lake fishery is managed with smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and northern pike as the primary predators. Stocking of yearling, two year old and breeder trout continues to provide spring, and fall angling opportunities. Summer angling is primarily provided by warmwater gamefish and panfish species. At this time, the current management strategies are statewide regulations for black bass, northern pike and panfish with the stocking of 4,200 brook trout yearlings, 4,200 brown trout yearlings and 400 two year old brown trout. Trout should continue to be managed with a year-round season and no minimum size limit (Cornett, 2008).

Red House Lake was created in 1929. It is characterized as meso-eutrophic. Average secchi disk depth is 1.65m. Red House Lake also receives considerable sediment from upstream sources. As sediment deposition decreases the depth of the lake, there is potential for the spread of aquatic vegetation, mostly in the form of rooted macrophytes. Aquatic plants have periodically impaired uses of some areas of the lake for boating and fishing. Maintenance of Red House Lake's existing uses requires the periodic removal of sediments. The higher productivity of Red House Lake is indicated through the steep decline in dissolved oxygen at deeper depths. This shift toward a more productive, eutrophic state has benefitted the lake's warm-water fishery. However, it also requires closer monitoring of the bathing area, especially for clarity. One important consideration is the NYS Dept. of Health (DOH) recommendation for visibility of a secchi disk at a depth of 4ft. within the swim area prior to the daily opening of the bathing beach. (EMB, 2006). Eurasian watermilfoil was also found in this lake in fairly sparse densities during the 2009 survey.

Science Lake, the oldest and smallest of the lakes in the park, was created in 1926. This lake is characterized as eutrophic based on data analysis. Similar to Red House Lake, it is also subjected to high sedimentation rates and a resulting loss of depth (EMB, 2006). A 2008 bathymetric survey of this lake found very shallow depths of a foot or less in the areas near the inlet. Science Lake supports fishing opportunities. However, this recreational activity is likely to become impaired through any increases in submergent and/or emergent aquatic vegetation. Consideration should be given to periodic removal of deposited sediments from the lake. Sediment removal would help to establish the desirable depth profile. This would also ensure that the lake would continue to serve as a "catch basin" preventing sediment from the Science Lake watershed from ending up in Quaker Lake (EMB, 2006). The 2008 and 2009 plant surveys of Science Lake found virtually no submerged aquatic plants in Science Lake.

Other small water resources including spring seeps, vernal pools, and impoundments by beavers are found throughout the park and serve as important habitat and nature interpretive areas. These resources are not mapped.

The fresh surface waters of the state have been classified by DEC according to quality standards and the best usage of the waters (Environmental Conservation Law, Part 701). All of the surface waters in Allegany State Park have been classified as "Class B." (Primary contact recreation and any other uses except water supply) or Class B(t) trout waters.

Hydrology. Hydrologically, the park is much like the remainder of the Allegheny Plateau Physiographic Province in which it is located. Climate is the primary influence on hydrologic behavior. Allegany winters are long, cold, and, with the precipitation fairly evenly spread throughout the year, about half of the precipitation is in the form of snow. This produces an irregular runoff pattern, with a large percentage of the total annual runoff occurring in March as the snow melts. During the summer evapotranspiration demand depletes soil moisture reserves. Because the fall months experience the lowest rainfall amounts, rainfall moisture goes to replenish soil moisture depleted during the growing season, producing minimal runoff. From the area as a whole, the maximum annual flood occurs in March as a result of snowmelt and a surplus of precipitation over potential evapotranspiration. On smaller watersheds, however, maximum annual peak flows are more likely to occur from intense, summer and fall thunderstorms during which there may be insufficient time for infiltration with attendant surface runoff, erosion, and sedimentation downstream.

Potable Water - Ground water within the park is an important resource which provides potable water supplies. Water wells with constant flow and good water quality form the backbone of the water supply system. Generally, distribution includes gravity fed reservoirs which provide stability

in water availability for users in the event of pump malfunctions or electrical disruptions within the system.

Wetlands

Wetlands provide many benefits including: flood and storm water control and quality through water absorption and storage; erosion control through filtering and absorption of silt and organic matter; wildlife habitat for breeding, nesting, and feeding grounds for many forms of wildlife; sources of nutrients in freshwater food cycles and nursery grounds for freshwater fish; protection of subsurface water resources and valuable watersheds; recharging of ground water supplies; pollution treatment through biological and chemical processes; recreation areas for hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping; education and scientific research; and prized open space and aesthetic appreciation.

Wetlands are identified on the basis of characteristic vegetation, such as wetland trees, shrubs, emergent vegetation, and aquatic vegetation or bog vegetation and soil characteristics.

Figure 8 depicts both the state and federally regulated wetland areas within the park. Projects impacting any of these areas would require a site specific delineation of the wetland boundary by a professional and permit approval by the DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

Climate

The climate of Allegany State Park is favorable to recreational activities all year long.

The region's mountainous topography causes variations in local climate, particularly rainfall and temperatures. Average daytime highs range from 30 degrees (Fahrenheit) in December – February to 80 degrees in July. Prevailing winds are west-northwesterly during the winter and west-southwesterly during the summer months.

Autumn is generally clear and calm with cool temperatures (60's to 40's) and above average monthly precipitation levels. Winter snows generally cover the land from November until mid March, and the depth of snow retained during these times often exceeds two feet.

Temperatures are generally below freezing during December through February, with January being the coldest month. Climatic conditions generally present no adverse impacts on the quality of the recreation experience.

Although winter snow storms sometimes prevent users from reaching the park, they are generally of short duration and therefore winter activities are supported.. The snow cover has enabled the park to develop into a truly four season recreational facility.

Natural Resources

The quality and extent of park's natural resources are unique in New York State. The park is located within a geologically distinct area, known as the Salamanca Re-entrant that was not affected by the last (Wisconsin) glacial era. This lack of glaciation has affected the soil characteristics (more weathered and very productive), and land forms (more rugged topography with steeper slopes and narrow V-shaped valleys) in the park in comparison to areas to the north. The park's geographic location between the Great Lakes and the Allegheny Mountains causes a relatively humid climate with higher than average precipitation which contributes to the enhanced growth of the forest and forest systems. "The unglaciated recent history, soil types, landforms and climate combine to allow both northern and central Appalachian plant species to thrive providing a rich diversity in both the canopy and the understory" (TNC 2008).

Allegany State Park contains the largest and most intact forested landscape in western and central New York and one of the most intact forested landscapes within the entire Allegheny River watershed and High Allegany Plateau ecoregion of Pennsylvania and New York (TNC, 2001 and 2008). The forests of the park are in excellent condition. The park contains two of the three largest blocks (>10,000 acres) of high quality roadless forest in Central and Western New York. Roadless blocks provide important functions for natural processes and are critical for forest interior species that are sensitive to disturbance, openings or edges. Seventy four species that benefit or depend on interior or "core" forests in the watershed have been identified by the Nature Conservancy (TNC, 2008)

Allegany State Park has also been documented as containing the largest known extent of old growth forest in New York State outside of the Adirondacks and Catskills. Eight separate sites containing old growth forest totaling 5320 acres were identified by the Natural Heritage Program (Evans et al, 2004). These old growth forests have excellent age class diversity, species diversity, horizontal and vertical structure. The park contains the largest documented occurrence of old growth hemlock-northern hardwood forest in western NY and it is among the 10 largest in the state (Lundgren et al, 2010 in preparation).

The high overall diversity and quality of the natural systems and their components in the park is a significant contribution to the biodiversity of Western New York. The park's natural forest community types, two of which are rare in the state, high quality headwater streams, seeps, rich invertebrate communities, fish, and rare mussels all contribute to this rich biodiversity (Lundgren et al, 2010 in preparation).

Contributing to the significance of the park as a whole is the relative lack of commercial timber management activities since its purchase by the State. This is in contrast to the 775,000 acres of public/private managed forest in the vicinity surrounding the park. Only approximately 3 percent of the adjoining Allegheny National Forest has been designated by Congress as either wilderness or natural or scenic area, and these designations are relatively recent, meaning the national forest areas have not developed the mature forest ecosystems found in Allegany State Park .

The park contributes significantly to regional biodiversity. While early successional ecosystems and species are abundant in areas outside of the park, these same outside areas are lacking in old growth systems similar to those within the park. Therefore, protection of the park's existing old growth areas is important to maintaining the park's contribution to regional biodiversity.

The park's natural resources include significant habitats, rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and wildlife, wetlands, and natural communities. Another significant park resource is spring seeps. There are several species of amphibians, particularly the Spring Salamander which are dependent on pristine, cold and shaded spring seeps, and headwaters.

Identification of the locations of some of these significant resources is being updated through further intensive ongoing surveys of the area by the New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP). This data identifies the location, type and extent of significant and unique resources within Allegany State Park.

Ecological Communities

The majority of the park consists of mature second-growth forests. The New York Natural Heritage Program (Evans et al, 2004) has identified twenty-five Ecological Community Types at Allegany State Park. Hardwood forest communities include the dominant rich mesophytic forest, maple basswood rich mesic forest and beech-maple mesic forests. (Figure 9)

Hemlock-northern hardwood forests are second in dominance to the rich mesophytic forest and occupy nearly all lower slopes and stream hollows. This community occurs on some of the steepest slopes in the park which discouraged intensive logging. The resulting old-growth hemlock-northern hardwood forest is regarded as one of the largest and best examples in the state and the Allegany Plateau region. Appendix G lists the ecological communities and the number of acres for each.

Allegany State Park also contains eighteen natural community occurrences in eight different community types that are considered ecologically significant from a statewide perspective (Figure 10). These include four occurrences of Allegheny oak forest (1816 acres), two of Beech-maple mesic forest (8386 acres), six examples of Maple-basswood rich mesic forest (6375 acres), and a large floodplain forest near the Allegany River. Exemplary natural communities mapped in the park include 28,278 acres of the Rich Mesophytic forest, a large (15,855 acres) outstanding example of Hemlock-northern hardwood forest, two outstanding examples of rocky headwater streams and one intermittent stream community (Evans, 2004).

Flora

Allegany State Park is the largest tract of intact forest land in the western half of New York State. The flora, dominated by species found in the expanse of forest, is similar to other areas of western New York but is mostly comparable to the deciduous forests of other unglaciated areas to the south in western Pennsylvania. A partial list of species in the park can be found in Appendix D.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species of Plants

A number of endangered and threatened species of plants exist in the park. A list of documented and historical occurrences of these species is found in Appendix F (Evans et al, 2004) and (Lundgren et al, 2010 in preparation).

Invasive Species

Under state law adopted in 2007 and amended in 2008 (Environmental Conservation Law Article 9, Title 17), “invasive species” means a species that is:

(a) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration; and

(b) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

The law also indicates that harm must significantly outweigh any benefits for a species to be considered invasive.

Controlling invasive species is viewed as a management issue and is addressed in Chapter 5 of the plan

The 2004 Natural Heritage report (Evans et al, 2004) noted some multiflora rose along edges adjacent to developed areas and trails and common reed in wet areas outside of the park. Since that time, however, additional invasive plant species have been noted at the park. In a preliminary survey conducted in 2009 (Reid, 2009 and Lundgren et al, 2010 in preparation) invasive plants identified at the park included: bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, Oriental bittersweet, Japanese barberry, coltsfoot, non-native cattail, and moneywort.

Invasive insects are of significant concern for Allegany State Park. In 2009 the Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in Randolph, very close to the park. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has reached the Finger Lakes area and there are concerns that it could threaten Allegany’s old growth hemlock – northern hardwood forests if this species reaches the park.

Fauna

It is estimated that approximately 495 species of wildlife may occur in Allegany State Park. The total numbers of species by major groups are - Mammals 58, Birds 244 Reptiles 15, Amphibians 22, Fish 45, Butterflies 63, and Odonates 48.

A preliminary inventory of fish and wildlife species common to Allegany State Park is provided in Appendix D.

The lakes within Allegany State Park are stocked by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation with cold water fish species, including brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Warm water species, including bass, bullheads, calico bass, and other panfish are also present.

Modest populations of native brook trout still inhabit most of the forest-covered streams in the park. Brook trout are stocked in Red House Brook, downstream of the lake, where no wild brook trout exist. Brown trout are stocked in five larger park streams.

Rare Threatened and Endangered Species of Animals

Investigations by NHP staff indicates that the park contains several species of rare animals including two freshwater mussels, one butterfly, four fish, one amphibian and one reptile. Two other species, one bird and one snake, have occurred in the park in the past but have not been found in recent surveys. Historical specimen records also exist for three species of rare animals that may no longer occur in the park. (Lundgren et al, 2010 in preparation) Appendix E summarizes the status of rare animals found in Allegany State Park.

Cultural Resources

A Cultural Resources Survey (Costello, 1984) was conducted by the Division of Historic and Anthropological Services (DHAS) of the NYS Museum. Findings from the survey document the existence of many historic period sites and the potential for prehistoric sites within the park. While analysis of the history and archeology of any particular site was not conducted due to the limited scope of the survey, mapping done by the DHAS indicates considerable areas with high sensitivity for historic and prehistoric sites. There appears to be significant opportunity to further expand upon the interpretation of historic and archeological resources.

Pre-contact

Allegany State Park lies in the Salamanca Re-entrant, an unglaciated portion of New York State roughly defined by the loop of the Allegheny River. Theoretically then, the park was available for Amerindian occupation from the time they arrived in northeastern North America. Nothing is known about the environment of the Re-entrant during the height of the Wisconsin glaciation. During early postglacial times the Salamanca Re-entrant probably served as a take off point for the biotic recovery of the surrounding glaciated area. Conversely then, the late glacial (ca. 15,000 B.C.) environment of the re-entrant was probably park tundra, which followed the receding ice northward throughout North America. (Costello, 1984)

The Salamanca Re-entrant, particularly Allegany State Park, has the potential to yield some of the earliest prehistoric (Paleo-Indian) sites in the State. Miller, as cited in Costello, 1984, showed one Paleo-Indian point locus near the park and ten more loci within twenty-five miles of the park. This area also has the potential for yielding Early Archaic sites, a relative rarity in New York State.

The area of Allegany State Park may have been intensively utilized during the entire prehistoric period (ca. 13,000 B.C. - 1600 A.D.). Comparable data would seem to indicate that no area can be deemed unoccupied without a thorough survey. Even the most marginal area, such as an extreme

slope, may have rock shelters or flats that would have been suitable for repeated visits by Amerindian groups.

Historic

OPRHP's Field Services Bureau (FSB) has determined that portions of the Red House Area, Quaker Cabin Area, Stone Tower, Sawmill, Group Camps 5, 10 and 12 meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. These determinations are considered preliminary to a more complete study that would define precise boundaries. Additionally, a limited field survey was conducted in 2009 to assess the condition and contributing status of many structures within the park (Adams, 2009). The results of that survey are included as Appendix H.

The Red House and Quaker Cabin areas are historically significant as the primary camping and recreation areas of Allegany State Park that were extensively developed during the 1920's and 1930's. The Quaker Cabin area was developed soon after the acquisition of the initial 7,000 acres for the park. Between 1927 and 1931 the Red House area was developed. This consisted of the creation of Red House Lake, extensive landscaping and the construction of the primary park buildings. Further development occurred throughout the 1930's using WPA funds and the CCC (of which portions of two camps remain). The stone tower, sawmill, Camp 10 and Camp 12 are outside of the above areas but should also be considered significant as part of the historic development of the park. A list of contributing resources in the park can be found in Appendix H.

Much of the designed landscape and many of the cabins and facility structures at ASP were built before 1950. Under the State Historic Preservation Act projects involving these structures require consultation with the Field Services Bureau (FSB) for compliance with section 14.09 of the State Historic Preservation Act before rehabilitation, significant alteration, or demolition of any kind. Since the date of the Historic Buildings Inventory (1988), various buildings listed above have been rehabilitated, altered or demolished in consultation with FSB.

Scenic Resources

Vista Points

The hills, water, and forest create a natural setting and scenic backdrop which enhances the quality of the recreation experience at Allegany State Park. Numerous scenic vista points have been designated and strategically located along roads and trails throughout the park to provide panoramic views of the forest, water, and wildlife. These scenic vistas require periodic vegetative management to maintain the desired view areas. The fall season in particular offers spectacular foliage color due to the high percentage of maple, ash and oak found in the park's forest.

Some of the vistas have long range views that include adjoining properties and viewsheds as part of the scenic experience, connecting the viewer with the park and its surroundings.

Designated scenic view points and viewsheds include the following:

- 5 Roadside Vista Points (4 on ASP Rte. 1; 1 on ASP Rte. 2)
- Fancher Point
- Stone Observation Tower
- Summit Fire Tower
- Mt. Tuscarora Fire Tower (this tower is currently closed)
- Bear Caves (Geologic)
- Thunder Rocks (Geologic)
- Allegany River Reservoir

- Science Lake
- Red House Lake
- Quaker Lake
- Additional vistas are located on trails throughout the park

Subsurface Resources

Oil and Gas Rights/Ownership

Property ownership within the legislative boundary of Allegany State Park is a complex issue. The state did not purchase mineral rights for many of the properties when it purchased the land to form the park. In fact, by the time the park was formed in the early 1920's it was already very difficult to obtain subsurface rights on many of the parcels acquired by the state. Historically, these rights had been sold by the original land owners to other interests, who then sold them to others or contracted for their exploration and use. In some cases, several different owners retain rights to minerals within different strata under yet another surface owner. Currently the state owns approximately half of the subsurface rights in the park.

Oil and Gas Policy on Lands where the state owns the subsurface rights

OPRHP adopted a formal written policy on the development of oil and gas resources in State Parks and Historic Sites in 2009. Where the subsurface mineral rights are owned by the agency, the official agency policy states, "*The development, extraction, or offer for leasing of state-owned oil and gas resources is prohibited within State Parks and State Historic Sites*." (OPRHP, 2009a).

Privately Owned Subsurface Rights

OPRHP is working to determine the percentage of privately owned subsurface rights in the park. In the event that any owner of privately-held subsurface rights approaches OPRHP to seek to develop such rights, OPRHP has established a permitting and environmental review protocol in place that includes the following:

- First requires documentation to the Agency's satisfaction that the claimed ownership of the subsurface rights can in fact be legally substantiated;
- requires a permit from OPRHP (Appendix I) before any work can begin and,
- requires that an environmental review of the proposed project under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) be conducted.

An oil and gas drilling permit is also required from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). OPRHP and DEC have developed a Memorandum of Understanding indicating that ORPHP will be the lead agency for SEQR review of oil and gas drilling projects on lands where State Parks owns the surface. This protocol is designed to assure that any development of privately owned oil and gas rights that is permitted within the park receives rigorous environmental review and is conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts on the park's natural, recreational, scenic, and historic resources. No oil and gas permits have been issued in Allegany State Park in the past several decades. In the past two years OPRHP has received several preliminary inquiries from private entities regarding privately-owned subsurface rights; however no formal oil and gas applications have been submitted to OPRHP or DEC.

Gas Storage

In July, 1964, New York State, acting through the Office of General Services, leased to the Felmont Oil Corporation (now NFG) state-owned gas storage rights underlying certain parcels of land in the

park. The original lease allowed automatic renewal in 1994 for 20 years under the same terms. This current 20-year term of the lease ends in 2014.

The natural gas storage field is a naturally occurring and self-contained stratigraphic trap located in the Oriskany sandstone geologic formation deep beneath the surface of the park. During summer months when demand for natural gas is relatively low, the private company that holds this lease actively pumps natural gas from a pipeline that transverses the park, through a series of existing underground distribution lines and wells, into the sandstone formation. During winter months when natural gas demand increases for home heating and other purposes, the company extracts the natural gas, returning it to the pipeline to increase its supply. This is one of largest subsurface natural gas storage areas in western New York.

The lease area is located in the center of the park. Most of the existing storage field facilities are in areas of the park that are not intensively developed for recreation. However there are several trails that go through the field in the Big Basin area. The 9,470 acre-storage lease area includes 14 wells, several gravel access roads, and underground gas lines to and from a compressor station located in the Limestone area.

Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells

OPRHP has documented approximately 200 abandoned drill holes in Allegany State Park, dating from oil and gas activities from many decades ago. Many of these wells have been plugged by private and park forces. Approximately 75 of these wells remain in the park that were likely plugged based on the technologies at the time they were abandoned.

OPRHP is taking the lead in the identification and remediation of any safety problems that might be associated with any of the remaining abandoned wells.

Active Oil and Gas Wells

There currently are a small number of privately-owned oil and gas wells in the park that are considered “active” under DEC rules and regulations. These wells are in remote areas of the park and produce a minimal amount of oil or gas each year.

Recreational Resources/Activities

Beaches

	RED HOUSE LAKE	QUAKER LAKE
Beachfront	470 Lin.Ft.	700 Lin.Ft.
Capacity	(662 instant capacity)	(844 instant capacity)

Boat launching ramps/sites

BOAT LAUNCHES	RED HOUSE LAKE	QUAKER LAKE	ALLEGHENY RESERVOIR (FRIENDS BOAT LAUNCH)
Car Top	1	1	
Parking Capacity	10 cars plus 1 cars	10 cars	34 cars w/trailers plus 10 cars

	w/trailers		
Launching Site	1	1	1

Day use areas

PICNICKING	RED HOUSE	QUAKER
(3000 Instant Capacity) Areas		
Beehunter	25 ac	
Red House	20 ac	
Quaker		10 ac
Quaker Lake		5 ac
Tables	200	175
Facilities Buildings	2	1
Shelters	2	1

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS	RED HOUSE	QUAKER
Beehunter Picnic Area	1	
Red House Picnic Area	0	
Red House Beach	0	
Red House Tent/Trailer	1	
Quaker Beach		1
Quaker Picnic		1
Cain Hollow		1

COURT/FIELD GAMES	
Tennis	6 Courts
Basketball	2 Court
Baseball	3 Fields
Miniature Golf	2 18 hole courses; Concession Operated; Red House and Quaker)

Trails

Hiking/Snowshoe	78.6 miles
Nature (self-guided)	8.5 miles (included in hiking trail system)
Horseback Riding	45.0 miles (included in snowmobile trail system)
Snowmobile	61.0 miles
Cross-Country Skiing	24.0 miles (included in hiking trail system)
Bicycle	5.7 miles

Fishing

3 Lakes (402 acres)
Red House - 120 acres
Quaker - 275 acres
Science - 7 acres
Streams/River - 45 miles of major streams (plus additional minor and/or intermittent streams)

Ice Fishing - Quaker Lake and Red House Lake

Hunting

Big Game - Deer Only
Small Game - Turkey, Rabbit, Squirrel, Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock
Waterfowl, Pheasant

Camping

CAMPING	RED HOUSE	QUAKER
Cabins - Total	144	209
Winterized	128	36
Full Service Cottages	1	9
Tent & Trailer Sites - Total	132	189
Electrified	67	95
Group Camps - Number	3	2
Capacity	280	248
Pit Toilets	7	21
Washhouses	13	13
Dump Stations (for Camping Trailers)	1	1

Interpretive/Educational Programs

There is great interest in environmental interpretation and education on the part of overnight park visitors and school and community groups visiting on a day-use and outreach basis. In light of the nation's increased awareness for the need for environmental education, the park's interpretive initiative has increased the quality of this experience for its visitors and become integral in advancing natural and cultural resource stewardship. Limitations of facilities and staffing have made it difficult to keep abreast of the demand.

The park Environmental Education and Interpretation Department directly serves over 25,000 visitors annually through organized programs, and indirectly serves several thousand additional visitors via self-guided activities and interpretative signage and publications. The total number of

participants in formal nature programs represents only a small percentage of park's total annual attendance. Programs are designed to help the participants become more aware of the park's history, flora and fauna, and interrelationships of nature and human activities. A major component of these programs is to educate the patrons so they willingly adopt behaviors that help address management concerns such as bear/human interactions, invasive species prevention, water quality preservation and historic structure importance.

Several in-depth activities are offered, such as Jr. Naturalist training, citizen science projects, the National Public Lands Day annual volunteer event and workshops for patrons, the local community and park employees. In addition, 6 to 8 formal Environmental Education programs are presented daily during the summer and numerous cultural (art lessons, history talks, Native American lore) and entertainment (musicians, festivals, fishing derbies) programs are offered. Facilities available to support the programs are two naturalist cabins (one in Red House and one in Quaker), the Regional Administration Building and the Old Quaker Store Museum for small groups. Additional facilities available in the summer include the Quaker Amphitheater and picnic pavilions in various locations around the park.

OPRHP and the Department of Environmental Conservation have entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate cooperation between the agencies for the planning and delivery of environmental education programs.

Other Facilities

RECREATION PROGRAM/INFORMATION FACILITIES
Red House Museum
Quaker Museum
Quaker Amphitheater
Nature Interpretive Program Structure

Emergency Plans and Services

Fire/Ambulance

Although Allegany State Park boundaries extend into as many as six townships, the primary fire departments/ambulance services that serve Allegany State Park include Cold Spring Volunteer Fire Department and Allegany Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department. Protocols have been developed to have paid ambulance services back up the volunteer ambulance services in order to better serve the park.

Quaker Area served by:

Town of Cold Spring Volunteer Fire Department

Red House Area served by:

Allegany Indian Reservation Volunteer Fire Department (AIRVFD)

Surrounding Community Fire and Ambulance Services:

City of Salamanca Fire Department and Ambulance
Limestone Volunteer Fire Department
Bradford Twp Volunteer Fire
Bradford Fire Department
City of Bradford: Ambulance
Bradford Fire & Ambulance
Bradford Medic One
DEC Forest Ranger
Medical Helicopter Transport Services
Starflight
Mercyflight

The *Allegany State Park Emergency Action Plan* contains protocol and contact information for building fires, wildfires, gas line eruptions/fires and propane leaks/fires. ASP management and forestry staff would coordinate any fire responses with local fire departments and DEC forest rangers as appropriate.

All park structures have emergency evacuation plans designed primarily for fire egress. In the event the park itself would need to be evacuated, the park police take the lead, working with other local and state police agencies. Park staff also assist in any capacity needed.

Law Enforcement

New York State Park Police

The State Park Police are a full service police department that provide total police services in support of the mission of the Agency, and where possible, extend those services to every citizen of the State as needed.

The New York State Park Police are considered a bureau within the OPRHP. The Allegany contingent is housed in the Red House Administration building of Allegany State Park, where they patrol the entire region.

The New York State Park Police are responsible for the protection of persons, property and natural resources under the control of the OPRHP. Their mission also includes duties in areas not specifically under the jurisdiction of the Agency, where they have a patrol responsibility. Their objectives include the prevention of crime and the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of order, and insuring compliance with applicable laws, and Park Rules and Regulations.

The NYSPP meet and coordinate regularly with Federal, Local, County, Tribal and other State Police agencies to establish an effective law enforcement community.

Ambulance

The Seneca Nation Volunteers provide ambulance service to the Red House Area. The Town of Coldspring volunteers provide service to the Quaker Area.

The park is currently working with the Cattaraugus County Emergency Coordinator to have the City of Salamanca provide secondary coverage to the Red House area and the City of Bradford, PA, to provide the same for the Quaker Area.

Haz Mat

In the event of a hazardous spill, the Department of Environmental Conservation Haz-Mat squad and Cattaraugus County Emergency and New York State Department of Health are notified.

Infrastructure

Water Supplies

RED HOUSE	FACILITIES SERVED
Administration Bldg. 75,000 Gallon Reservoir 2 Wells Red House	Cabin Trails: Beehunter, Dowd, Sugarbush, Anderson, McIntosh Bathhouse Red House Boathouse Beehunter Picnic Area Red House Campground Campground store & Laundromat Trailer Dump Station Five Residences Red House Picnic Area Administration Building Red House Maintenance Area Congdon and Ryan Cabin Trails

RED HOUSE	FACILITIES SERVED
Group Camp #11 6,000 Gallon Reservoir - 1 Well	Camp #11 (Camp Allegany)
Group Camp #10 8,000 Gallon Reservoir Pressure Tank - 1 Well	Camp #10
Group Camp #12 Pressure Tank - 1 Well	Camp #12
Summit Cabin Trail	Summit Cabin Trail

6,000 Gallon Reservoir with Pressure System and 2 Wells	
QUAKER AREA	FACILITIES SERVED
Barton Reservoir (50,000 Gallon Reservoir) and Stony Brook Reservoir (75,000 Gallon Reservoir) 2 Wells	Cabin Trails: Stony, Kaiser, Parallel, Creekside, Buffalo, Angle, McCabe, Indian, Reed, Circle, Gypsy, Horseshoe, Hamlin, Diehl, Coon, Fancher and Parallel Cottage Loops, Brow, Ward, Ranger, Pine Tree, Weller, and Barton Fancher Shower Building Amphitheater Quaker Picnic Area Quaker Store Quaker Maintenance Area Regional Maintenance Area Diehl Camping Area Tennis Courts Quaker Snack Bar Two Residences Group Camp #5 Camp Turner
Cain Hollow 20,000 Gallon Reservoir 1 Main Well	Cain Hollow Campground
Quaker Lake Bathhouse 20,000 Gallon Reservoir	Quaker Lake Bathhouse Quaker Lake Picnic Area

In Bay State area there are individual residential water supply wells servicing rental homes under OPRHP jurisdiction.

There is one individual well serving a residential water supply in the Sawmill Red house maintenance area.

There is one well at the control station in the Red House area.

Waste Water and Sewerage Systems

RED HOUSE	FACILITIES SERVED
Central Sewer System with Waste Treatment Plant	Cabin Trails: Sugarbush, Anderson, Beehunter, McIntosh and Congdon
	Red House Campground
	Red House Campground Store & Laundromat
	Red House Bathhouse
	Red House Picnic Area
	Beehunter Picnic Area
	Residences
	Administration Building
	Red House Mtn. Area
	Group Camp #11 (Camp Allegany)
	Trailer Dump Station
	Group Camp #10
	Pitt Cottage
Pit Toilets	Cabin Trails: McIntosh, Ryan
	Horse Camp
Sub-Surface Disposal	Group Camp #12
	Summit Cabin Area
	Red House Maintenance Cottage

QUAKER AREA	FACILITIES SERVED
Central Sewer System with Waste Treatment Plant	Fancher Shower Building
	Quaker Picnic Area
	Diehl Cabin & Tent/Trailer Area
	Quaker Store & Museum
	Regional Maintenance Center
	Quaker Rental Office
	Residence
	Quaker Snack Bar/Store
	Group Camp #5
	Camp Turner
	Weller Cabin Area
	Amphitheater
	Buffalo Cabin Area
	Gypsy Cabin Area
	Fancher and Parallel Cottage Loops
	Log Cabin
Pit Toilets	Cabin Trails: Stoney, Kaiser, Parallel, Angle, Reed, Gypsy, Hamlin, Coon, Brow, Pine Tree Ranger, Barton, Creekside, Horsershoe and Taft
	Camp 5, Friends Boat Launch (seasonal)

CAIN HOLLOW	FACILITIES SERVED
Central Sewer System with Lagoons	Washhouses Entrance Control Station Trailer Dump Station

Utilities

PARK MAINTAINED UTILITIES

Electric

Water

Sewage Systems

Natural Gas

ELECTRIC LINES

27 miles of Primary - Overhead

1 mile of Primary - Underground

300 miles of Secondary - Overhead

6 miles of Secondary – Underground

Telephone/DSL

Telephone and DSL service at the park is currently provided by Windstream Communications.

Roads and Bridges

ROADS

Paved	56 miles
Gravel	40 miles
BRIDGES AND CULVERTS	
Bridges with 20 foot span or greater	17
Bridges with less than 20 foot span	34
Culverts	800+

PARKING LOTS (Capacities)	RED HOUSE	QUAKER
Store	40	20
Beach	170	500
Picnic Area	395	50
Rental Office	30	10
Museum / Gift Shop		20

Operations and Maintenance

Park Season and Hours

Allegany State Park is open year round – 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

Special Events/Permits

The park hosts a number of special events. Examples include:

In Red House:

- Art Roscoe "Loppet" cross country ski races - February
- "Snowsnake" Demonstration and Competition – March or April
- Allegany Adventure Bike Race – May
- National Police Bloodhound Assoc. (NPBA) Training/Demonstration – April
- Raccoon Rally Bike Races – June
- Kids Fishing Derby – July
- Winter Funfest - February

In Quaker:

- Fourth of July Fireworks – July
- Can-Am Dog Sledders – January or February
- Triathlon – August

Parkwide:

- Geobash – May

Buildings

MAJOR PUBLIC USE BUILDINGS

Red House Area

Administration Building

Restaurant
Gift Shop
Museum
Regional Administration Offices
Lobby/Information
Red House Rental Offices
Park Police Headquarters

Red House Park Manager's Office, Red House Maintenance Area

Red House Lake Boathouse

Red House Lake Bathhouse/First Aid Station/Snack Bar

Campground Store & Laundromat

Summit Area Cross-Country Ski Rental//Snack Bar

Warming Hut

Quaker Area

Snack Bar/Store

Rental Office

Quaker Area Park Manager's office

Quaker Lake Bathhouse

Quaker Lake Beach Snack Bar

Museum & Gift Shop

Cain Hollow Campground Office

Nuisance Wildlife

The park obtains Nuisance Wildlife Permits annually through the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Solid Waste Management and Recycling Programs

Allegany State Park manages a solid waste and recycling program. The park has three recycling centers, one in Red House and two in Quaker.

Chapter 4: Park Vision, Goals, and Agency Policies

The vision and goals described below uphold the preservation, recreation and environmental education values of OPRHP while guiding management and development actions. Many of these goals reflect programs and actions that Allegany State Park has continued to implement on an ongoing basis in the development, management, and operation of the park.

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

Park Vision

Allegany State Park will be a place for the public to visit, enjoy and appreciate the natural, cultural and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers. A balance will be achieved between recreational use and the protection and interpretation of the biological, physical and cultural resources of the park.

Overall Park Goal

To provide a diversity of high quality recreation opportunities balanced with stewardship of the park's natural and cultural resources.

Natural and Physical Resource Goals

Overall Goal

To identify, protect and interpret the natural resources of the park.

Goals

- Preserve the park's mature forest ecosystems and high quality streams and wetlands
- Protect critical environmental areas including habitats of endangered, threatened and rare species of plants and animals
- Provide and enhance patron opportunities for wildlife observation and interpretation
- Protect the surface recreational, natural and cultural resources to the fullest extent through the acquisition, where feasible, of all lands and subsurface oil, gas and mineral rights within the legislative boundary of Allegany State Park
- Protect important surface geological features of the park
- Protect the quality and quantity of surface and subsurface water resources
- Control and/or eliminate invasive species

Recreation Goals

Overall Goal

To develop, maintain and operate high quality facilities, recreation opportunities and programs that are consistent with both the recreational needs of the patrons and the character of park resources.

Goals

- Continue to provide year-round facilities and programs
- Implement programs and facilities that address or satisfy needs and demands identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Continue, and enhance when appropriate, all recreational opportunities presently provided at the park and provide additional opportunities in the future
- Continue to provide, maintain and enhance the trail system within the park for a variety of designated uses
- Rehabilitate and improve facilities and infrastructure critical to recreation delivery
- Continue, maintain and enhance, as appropriate, trail activities, hunting, fishing, nature study and other recreation activities
- Continue to provide cabins, cottages, campsites, beaches and day use areas
- Continue and enhance organized recreational activities

Cultural Resource Goals

Overall Goal

To identify, preserve, protect and interpret important historic, archaeological and cultural resources.

Goals

- Restore and/or maintain significant historic structures for continued patron use and/or interpretation where feasible
- Develop programs and activities which educate the public about and interpret the history and culture of the area and the park

Scenic Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Protect and maintain the scenic quality of the park, its vistas, landscapes and views of natural areas from adverse visual impacts from both outside and within the park.

Goals

- Designate and maintain scenic vistas
- Design and locate all activities, structures and infrastructure to minimize visual impacts and to fit into the park's setting
- Protect, wherever possible, park views that will be impacted by off-site development

Open Space Protection Goals

Overall Goal

Continue to protect open space within the legislated boundary and adjacent to the park through acquisition consistent with the *2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan,* and through coordination of stewardship with partners.

Goals

- Research connections and links to nearby parks, recreation areas, trail systems and other open spaces
- Create a buffer zone from development within and outside the park using open space protection strategies such as conservation easements, scenic easements and/or acquisition of land from willing sellers

Access Goals

Overall Goal

To provide appropriate access to the park and its recreational, cultural and natural resources.

Goals

- Construct a new "premier" entrance to the park including expanded contact station, registration and information services

Education and Interpretation Goals

Overall Goal

Provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.

Goals

- Provide adequate facilities to support environmental education programs
- Continue to provide an organized recreation program of cultural and educational value
- Expand existing environmental education and interpretation programs and integrate with other programs and operations in the park

Operation and Maintenance Goals

Overall Goal

Continue to operate and maintain the park in a safe, clean, and sustainable manner that protects the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the park.

Goals

- Continue and enhance the comprehensive program for regional and park maintenance
- Provide adequate maintenance facilities for the park in Red House and Quaker areas in appropriate locations
- Continue to update and implement design, maintenance and operation guidelines, including integrating resource protection and sustainability practices into all aspects of operations and maintenance
- Provide access to park resources for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Continue and enhance the use of sustainable site planning practices

Facility Development and Capital Investment Goals

Overall Goal

Develop, improve, and invest in the built infrastructure of the park to meet the needs of the recreation and operation goals of the park in a sustainable manner.

Goals

- Continue to ensure the health and safety of park patrons and employees
- Where feasible, integrate sustainable design into new facilities and redevelopment of existing facilities
- Assure public health and safety, building code and universal accessibility compliance, and compliance with environmental mandates
- Develop a prioritized list of expanded facility space for park operations and public recreation needs
- Expand, improve and enhance existing facilities to meet documented park user needs
- Continue to support general repair and rehabilitation of existing facilities
- Continue ongoing preventive, corrective and scheduled major repairs and improvements to meet long range infrastructure needs
- Rehabilitate and/or adaptively reuse existing structures before construction of new facilities when feasible

Communication and Partnership Goals

Overall Goal

Increase coordination and planning efforts with the private sector and federal, state and local governments in providing recreational opportunities.

Goals

- Coordinate state hunting, fishing and wetland regulations within the park with other agencies
- Coordinate trail systems with trails and trail networks outside the park
- Seek partners to help coordinate and develop education and research activities within the park

Inventory, Monitoring and Research Goals

Overall Goals

Advance scientific research into the biological, physical, natural and cultural resources of the park.

Goals

- Facilitate scientific research to enhance the long-term viability of the park's natural and cultural resources
- Encourage research by qualified individuals, interest groups and institutions
- Assure that all monitoring and research programs are compatible with the protection of park resources
- Incorporate all research findings into the OPRHP research tracking system

Sustainability Goals

Overall Goals

Plan, operate and develop the park using sustainability concepts wherever possible.

Goals

- Use sustainable site planning practices such as vegetated swales and permeable surfacing
- Provide recycling containers for park patrons throughout the park
- Design new buildings to current LEED standards where possible
- Retrofit existing buildings to reduce energy consumption

Agency Policies

State Parks has a series of policies that provide direction with respect to resource protection and park operations. These policies have applicability across the entire State Park and Historic Sites System including Allegany State Park. Policies that have particular bearing on this master plan are:

- Policy on the Development of Oil and Gas Resources in State Parks and Historic Sites
- Policy on the Management of Trees and other Vegetation in State Parks and Historic Sites
- Policy on Pesticide Reduction in State Park and Historic Sites
- Camping Policy, Procedures and Reference Manual
- Employee Health and Safety and Agency Occupational Health and Safety.

Copies of these and other policies can be obtained through the contact person for this master planning effort or at the Agency's public website, **http://www.nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx**.

Chapter 5: Analysis and Alternatives Considered

Introduction

One of the important elements in the master planning and environmental review process is the identification of alternatives and associated analysis. This section essentially represents a concise summary of a detailed report on Analysis and Alternatives evaluated as part of the planning process for Allegany State Park. The detailed report is contained in Appendix A.

The analysis of alternatives used the information within the Park Background, Environmental Setting and Vision and Goals chapters. Plan elements were identified and alternatives for each element were evaluated. All of the preferred alternatives were then reviewed in concert to determine if any additional adjustments were needed. The end product of this effort on plan element analysis was two master plan alternatives: Status Quo and Preferred Master Plan Alternatives.

Analysis and Alternatives of Master Plan Elements

For each plan element the resource and inventory information was analyzed, identifying opportunities and limits of the resources and existing facilities. The findings from this analysis were used in developing and defining element alternatives pertaining to the stewardship of resources, recreation opportunities, operations and facility development.

Appendix A provides a thorough description of alternatives considered for designation areas, natural resource protection strategies, recreation resource development, operations and infrastructure development. The discussion of each element includes 1) a background section with analysis, 2) a list of alternatives along with a listing of considerations for each alternative, and 3) identification and description of each preferred alternative. A Status Quo alterative was identified for each element.

Master Plan Alternatives

There are two Master Plan alternatives that have been considered for this plan. The first is the Status Quo Alternative which is a compilation of all the Status Quo element alternatives listed in Appendix A. Under this alternative, the park would continue to be operated as it is now. The Status Quo alternative proposes no changes to natural resources protection strategies, facility development/restoration, patron programs or management and operations within the facility.

The second alternative is the Preferred Master Plan alternative. This alternative is a compilation of the preferred alternatives identified for each element discussed in Appendix A. OPRHP staff reviewed the listing of each preferred master plan element to determine if any adjustments were needed in arriving at the Master Plan. This synthesis review did not identify the need for any substantive changes in the set of preferred master plan elements. Thus, the Preferred Master Plan alternative essentially represents the master plan itself which is fully described in Chapter 6 entitled “The Master Plan.” The Master Plan best meets the vision and goals outlined in Chapter 4. In selecting the Master Plan, OPRHP is providing an overall direction for improvements and changes which will have a positive impact on the recreational and natural resources within the park. The adoption of the master plan will ensure that the recreational development and operation of the park, over the next 15 years, will be in satisfactory balance with the protection of the Park’s significant and sensitive natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources.

Status Quo Master Plan Alternative

Under this alternative, the park would continue to operate as it is currently with no master plan.

- Current resource protection, operation, capacity and facility practices would continue.
- Current recreation resources would continue with addition of new recreation resources to meet park patron needs considered on a case by case basis.
- The natural resources in the park would continue to be protected as they are now with additional protections or designations considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Cultural and scenic resources would continue to be managed as they are now.
- All new projects would require SEQR review.

Preferred Master Plan Alternative

This alternative was selected as the Preferred Alternative, since it best meets the goals for the park in a comprehensive manner. The adoption of this alternative will efficiently and effectively guide the protection, development and operations of the park over the next 10 to 15 years.

- Significant improvements will be made to natural resource protection, including water quality, invasive species management, open space strategies, and resource designations.
- Recreational facility and program improvements will be made including increase in capacity and additional programs.
- Improvements to existing facilities and construction of new facilities and infrastructure will be made.
- Cultural and scenic resources will be identified and preservation strategies put in place.
- There will be a continuation of park improvement projects already in place.
- Operations and management strategies will be made to support existing and future projects.

Chapter 6: The Master Plan

This chapter provides a detailed description of actions that OPRHP will undertake in Allegany State Park to advance the natural resource, recreation, cultural resource, scenic resource, open space protection, access, education and interpretation, operations and management, and sustainability goals set forth in Chapter 4. The actions described here are based on the analysis and the preferred alternatives as presented in Appendix A.

Existing Context

The Master Plan proposes actions for the development and protection of the park. These actions are summarized below and in the Master Plan Map.

The Master Plan sets forth OPRHP's vision for capital improvements and operational enhancements to Allegany State Park for approximately the next ten to fifteen years. The agency has not developed detailed cost estimates for each of the proposed actions. Cumulatively they will cost tens of millions of dollars to implement. The pace and sequencing of recommended actions will be determined by the availability of funding, balancing the benefits of creating new public amenities against the need to invest in rehabilitation of existing park infrastructure, much of which is showing the effects of an extended period of deferred maintenance resulting from insufficient financial resources. Some actions will be undertaken in the next one to three years; many others will be implemented further in the future as funding becomes available. Some projects may be advanced with financial participation from public and private partner organizations.

Classification

The park will retain its classification as a Scenic Park.

Designations

Natural Heritage Area Designation

The entire park is designated as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA). The Natural Heritage Areas program is established in state Environmental Conservation Law Section 11.0539, which authorizes the designation of NHAs in order to conserve and manage plants and wildlife, endangered species and significant ecological communities located within state parks and other state-owned lands.

The NHA law and designation, and its enabling law, does not create any specific requirements or prohibitions regarding future management or public recreation activities for Allegany State Park. Instead, NHA designation provides recognition on a statewide level which adds to the overall significance of the park. Such designation will provide additional recognition of the importance of the significant habitats and encourage the public not only to support or visit the park because of its significant natural resources, but also to be more sensitive to their importance during their stay.

All of the current recreational activities in the park, and the development of expanded recreational facilities recommended in this plan, are consistent with the NHA designation. To the extent that other new park development or management actions – not identified in this plan – are proposed in the future for Allegany State Park, the NHA designation will inform the planning process and SEQR environmental review of such actions.

If the NHA law is modified in the future, the designation will be reevaluated.

Bird Conservation Area Designation

The entire park is designated as a Bird Conservation Area. The Bird Conservation Areas program is established in Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-2001, which authorizes the designation of BCAs in order to safeguard and enhance significant bird habitats located within state parks and other state-owned lands. The BCA designation provides a level of recognition on a statewide level which adds to the overall significance of the park relative to other parks and open spaces within the state. Such designation will encourage the public not only to support or visit the park because of the bird species that may exist there but also to be more sensitive to their habitats during their stay. Similar to the NHA designation, the Bird Conservation Area designation does not prohibit existing or future recreation uses or park operation activities. Instead, the BCA designation will inform the planning process for future actions in the park. All projects would be reviewed through SEQR.

Park Preservation Area Designation

The New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (PRHPL) directs OPRHP to operate and maintain the State Park and Historic Site system to conserve, protect, and enhance the natural, ecological, historic, cultural, and recreational resources contained therein and to provide for the public enjoyment of and access to these resources in a manner which will protect them for future generations (PRHPL Section 3.02). Article 20 of the PRHPL provides long term protection to unique and valuable natural or historical features by setting forth the purpose and process for designation of either an entire park as a Park Preserve or portions of a park as Park Preservation Areas (Appendix J).

Recreation has a long history in Allegany State Park. For generations, New York residents and visitors have come to the park to enjoy its public campgrounds, cabin loops, group camps, picnic and day use areas, swimming beaches, and educational facilities. The park's developed road network provides public access to the park's amenities and scenic driving experiences. Allegany's expansive forests support a wide variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, snowmobiling, horse back-riding, cross–country skiing, bicycling, hunting and fishing. All of these recreational activities are important traditions that contribute to the park's rich character and history and are entirely compatible with maintaining the ecological health of the park.

In additional to its outstanding recreational values, the vast scale, diversity, and ecological integrity of Allegany State Park's mature forests, streams, and wetlands are unique within the New York State park system. Throughout all of western and central New York, there is no other place like Allegany State Park – where 64,000 acres of forests have been permanently protected as public parkland and allowed for nearly a century to develop into magnificent mature forests. The park's forested ecosystems provide habitat for many species of wildlife – mammals, birds, amphibians, and insects – that evolved over time to thrive in large, intact, mature forests, a type of habitat that has virtually disappeared from most of New York. The park's intact landscape also supports high quality streams and wetlands that harbor a rich diversity of fish and aquatic species. And, the park is home to the largest old growth forests anywhere in New York outside of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, as well as rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals.

OPRHP has relied on research conducted by New York Natural Heritage Program scientists over the past several years to inform the agency about the unique species, habitats, and ecosystems in Allegany State Park. The park's 64,000 acres of forests are in excellent condition and contain two of the three largest blocks (>10,000 acres) of high quality, unfragmented forests in central and western New York. While the old growth areas are unique, all of the park's mature forests – which have been allowed to grow naturally for nearly a century and contain many trees, some more than one hundred and fifty years old – are equally important from a natural resource perspective.

Allegany State Park's expansive forests and high quality streams and wetlands are invaluable and irreplaceable parts of the state's natural heritage that warrant special recognition and protection for future generations. To that end, the agency finds that the park and its resources are appropriate for inclusion in the park preserve system. Under Article 20, the agency must decide whether to designate an entire park a Park Preserve, or designate portions of a park as Park Preservation Areas. Article 20 provides some guidance on the types of public recreation compatible with the Park Preserve designation. When entire parks are designated Park Preserves, recreational uses are generally limited to passive activities such as hiking, equestrian, and nature education. Developed facilities such as overnight accommodations and major operations facilities, as well as motorized recreation such as snowmobiling, are deemed inconsistent with Park Preserve designation.

Given the extent of cabins, campgrounds, maintenance and operational facilities with the park, and the long history of snowmobile use, OPRHP has determined that Park Preservation Area designation (rather than Park Preserve) is appropriate under Article 20. The Park Preservation Area for Allegany State Park encompasses the entire park with the exception of developed areas, existing roads, the existing and proposed snowmobile trail system including the proposed trail connections as identified within the Final Trails Plan (Appendix B) and well head areas and roads within the National Fuel Gas storage area. For ease of identification, the boundaries of the park preservation area are delineated in conformance with the boundaries of existing deed map parcels; with boundaries a minimum of 1000 ft. from developed areas. The proposed snowmobile trail connections will require SEQR review when routes are determined. This designation is carefully selected to accommodate recreational and operational needs while assuring the long term protection of Allegany State Park's forested landscape and diverse plants and wildlife. The delineation of the Park Preservation Area is depicted in Figure 11.

The Park Preservation Area designation totals approximately 52,360 acres, approximately 83% of the 63,420 acres of state owned parkland. Within Park Preservation Areas, passive public recreation such as hiking, horse-back riding, skiing, biking, back park camping, hunting, and fishing will continue as they have in the past including the development of new trails identified within the final Trails plan. Motorized recreational activities will not be allowed. In general, the agency will allow natural processes to shape the growth and regeneration of forest ecosystems in the Park Preservation Areas. Current management practices including utility right-of-ways will continue. Support facilities such as, but not limited to, contact stations, comfort facilities, lean-tos, and interpretive facilities are appropriate in Park Preservation Areas.

Conversely, approximately 11,060 acres (approximately 17% of the park) are outside the Park Preservation Area. These areas will continue to support more intensive public recreation activities such as campgrounds, cabins, group camps, picnic areas, swimming beaches, and park administrative facilities. All of the park's public roads and designated snowmobile trail corridors, including new snowmobile trails identified in this plan, are also excluded from the Park Preservation Area designation.

The Park Preservation Area designation does not signal that OPRHP intends to change its management of Allegany State Park. To the contrary, the designation recognizes the agency's long history of careful stewardship of the park and its natural resources, and affirms that a wide variety of public recreation activities including camping, hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling are entirely compatible with protection of the Allegany's unique forests and ecological resources. As such, the Park Preservation Area designation represents the agency's commitment to continue the park's historical and present management philosophy into the future.

Natural Resource Protection

Stream Management and Protection

Management of Streams for Native Brook Trout

Trout streams located within the park will continue to be managed in the way they are at present including stocking in cooperation with the New York State Deparment of Environmental Conservation. McIntosh Brook will continue as a pilot project for brook trout habitat improvement. If positive results are seen from the pilot project, an expansion of habitat improvement measures may be made into other streams in the park.

Stream Bank Protection

Park staff will continue to take actions to stabilize stream banks to protect park infrastructure from bank erosion where they deem it may be threatened in the future. . This direction will help increase native plant populations and provide trees for bank protection and shading. Natural processes will be allowed to occur in the undeveloped parts of the park.

Stream Water Quality

The park will develop a stream water quality monitoring program. This will provide for documentation of impacts over time. We anticipate at least one station for real time monitoring of potential water quality impacts from oil drilling activities in Pennsylvania will be developed for Quaker Run and its tributaries to provide timely information and response to spills potentially impacting these water bodies.

The park will also develop a stream monitoring program for other streams to establish a baseline and monitor for changes. Establishing baseline water quality information on the park's other streams will provide the basis for determining impacts from any future construction or other activities proposed within the park.

Lakes

Aquatic Invasives

Visual surveys for aquatic plants and invasive species will be conducted annually. Levels of milfoil in Quaker and Red House Lakes will be assessed. If milfoil appears to be increasing, a more detailed survey will be conducted. Based on survey results, management recommendations will be made in accordance with best management practices for this invasive species.

Conducting a detailed plant survey will determine the most appropriate control option to be employed to manage the Eurasian Watermilfoil. Potential options include the use of bio-controls, manual controls, and benthic barriers.

Signage will be installed at all boat launches warning patrons about transporting invasive species on their boats and equipment. Park patrons will be educated about the need to clean boats when travelling from one lake to another. The risk of spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil will be reduced.

Maintenance Dredging of Lakes

Periodic maintenance dredging of Red House and Quaker Lakes will be continued. The possibility of a sediment basin and/or designing maintenance dredging activities at Red House Lake to direct water and sediment flow away from the beach will be explored. Periodic maintenance dredging of Science Lake will also occur.

These actions will improve the conditions at the beach on Red House Lake, possibly reducing the number of beach closures. Periodic dredging of Science Lake will also improve the lake for fish and maintain its value as a sediment trap upstream from Quaker Lake.

Lake Fishery Management

The stocking of the park's lakes for sport fishing will continue as is presently done in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Protection. Habitat improvement projects such as those conducted in 1999 under the Quaker Lake Cleaning and inlet restoration project will be discussed in conjunction with an future lake dredging projects.

Trees and Forests

Allegany State Park's extensive areas of mature unfragmented forests are a defining feature of the park's scenic and ecological character. OPRHP's management of the park's forests will conform with the agency's "Policy on the Management of Trees and Other Vegetation in State Parks and Historic Sites," (OPRHP, 2009b) which establishes a "passive management" approach, allowing natural processes and natural succession to govern the development of forest ecosystems. This policy recognizes that aging mature trees, standing dead snags, downed trees, and forest openings created by wind and other natural disturbances provide important habitat for many species of birds, wildlife, and other organisms. Downed vegetation, including large trees that are allowed to fall to the forest floor, is important for enhancing forest soils and allowing new forest stands to regenerate in forest openings.

Pursuant to OPRHP policy prohibiting commercial logging activities on all state parkland under the agency's jurisdiction, commercial logging will not occur in Allegany State Park.

Agency policy recognizes that the removal of individual trees and vegetation is appropriate to advance certain management goals for Allegany State Park, including:

- Removal or pruning of individual trees in developed areas of the park, as well as along roads and trails, that are in danger of falling or dropping limbs, creating a potential health and safety hazard to the public or OPRHP staff, or that threaten agency buildings or structures
- Removal of trees necessary for the construction or maintenance of buildings, structures, recreational or educational facilities, roadways, utilities, firebreaks, or other infrastructure
- Pruning or removal of trees and other vegetation to maintain or restore important scenic overlooks and views
- Removal of invasive species and actions taken in response to widespread infestation of pathogens, disease, or insect pests impairing forest health
- Response to windstorms, ice storms, wildfire, or natural events. OPRHP will not automatically "salvage" trees damaged by such events, but rather will determine whether damaged or downed trees should be removed, or left in place, on a case-by-case basis, after considering public safety, facility operations, and ecological protection issues

Dams

The Science Lake dam will be rehabilitated and a plan for removing trees from Red House dam over a period of time will be implemented. All three dams will continue to receive regular inspections and maintenance as required by the DEC dam regulations and the recently developed infrastructure plan for the three park dams.

The currently scheduled rehabilitation of Science Lake dam is a priority for the park for safety and environmental reasons. The condition of the Red House dam will be improved by, over a period of time, removing the vegetation that could adversely affect its structural integrity.

Invasive Species Management

An integrated plan for invasive species control will be developed consistent with the approach developed by OPRHP (O'Brien and Cady-Sawyer 2008). This plan will provide guidance for long term management. Short term efforts will focus on the following: 1) prevention and eradication of new infestations through early detection / rapid response actions; 2) removal of invasive species in sensitive habitats; and 3) control efforts in those areas where there is a reasonable chance of success for eradication. Individual prescriptions for specific controls will be made based on conservation targets, park goals, site-specific conditions, and Best Management Practices.

Spring Seeps and Ephemeral Wetlands

The spring seeps and ephemeral wetlands in the park will be located, identified and evaluated at site-specific locations when facility development is being considered. An ongoing inventory will be maintained by park staff. Over time, a map of the park's spring seeps and ephemeral wetlands will be produced to help develop strategies for their protection.

These actions will provide for protection of these resources as projects are being considered and developed. Ultimately the location of seeps and ephemeral wetlands will be mapped and continue to be updated as new information becomes available. This information may come from studies from the Natural Heritage Program which already has locations and data for some of the seeps, or it may come from park staff or others knowledgeable about the resources in the park. A systematic method for recording and maintaining the data is recommended such as that used by the Natural Heritage Program (see methodology in Lundgren et al., 2010 in preparation).

Open Fields

The status quo of maintaining specific open fields with periodic mowing will be continued. The status quo remains an effective way to maintain the park's current community types. A rotational mowing schedule will be developed to assure proper timing of mowing activities to protect bird and wildlife species.

Mowed Lawn Areas

The current mowing program for lawn areas along park roadways and in developed areas such as campgrounds and picnic and day use areas will be maintained. Additional areas for reduced mowing in order to reduce park operations costs will be developed. The maintenance of lawn areas and roadsides, even in a reduced mowing regime, is a matter of safety and should be continued as deemed necessary by park staff and management.

Wildlife Resources and Nuisance Wildlife

The current park policies concerning wildlife are effective and will continue. The park will continue its relationship with OPRHP partners as a part of these policies, including nuisance wildlife on a case-by-case basis.

Management activities will be conducted in consultation with the OPRHP Regional Office, the Environmental Management Bureau, and DEC. In addition, OPRHP and its partners, DEC and the Natural Heritage Program will identify and monitor populations and occurrences of endangered, threatened and other species at risk within state park facilities. In the case of federally endangered

and threatened species, and migratory birds, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will also be consulted.

Rare and Endangered Species

The park will continue to maintain responsible stewardship practices for rare and endangered species and the habitats that support them. Cooperation with DEC, and especially the Natural Heritage Program, in locating, identifying and record keeping will continue. Decisions on facility development, siting, and maintenance will consider impacts to these species.

Subsurface Oil, Gas & Mineral Resources

OPRHP, as part of its stewardship responsibilities has a duty on behalf of the citizens of the State to protect the surface resources within State Parks. OPRHP's agency-wide "Policy on the Development of Oil and Gas Resources in State Parks and Historic Sites" (OPRHP, 2009a) finds that activities associated with oil and gas extraction have the potential to cause adverse impacts to the natural, scenic, recreational, and historic resources. Potential adverse impacts including clearing of trees and vegetation, construction of roads, installation of wells and pipelines, use and pollution of surface and ground water, introduction of invasive species, fragmentation and degradation of plant and wildlife habitats, noise, safety concerns, and the residual impacts and potential dangers of wells that are abandoned without proper closure. The policy prohibits the development, extraction, or offer for leasing of state-owned oil and gas resources on all parkland under the OPRHP's jurisdiction.

In compliance with agency policy, OPRHP will not develop or lease state-owned oil and gas resources within Allegany State Park.

An unusual situation exists in Allegany State Park where oil, gas, and mineral rights are privately owned beneath portions of state parkland. These privately-held subsurface rights were severed or reserved by private landowners or private entities prior to the creation and acquisition of Allegany State Park starting in 1921 (in many instances, the oil and gas rights were severed in the late 19th century, decades before the park was established).

In the event that any owner of privately-held subsurface oil and gas rights approaches OPRHP to seek to develop such rights within any State Park or Historic Site, the agency has developed a permitting and environmental review protocol that includes the following:

- Any entity seeking to develop privately-owned oil or gas rights beneath lands under the jurisdiction of OPRHP must document to the agency's satisfaction that it has secured legal ownership of such oil or gas rights. OPRHP will not review any permit application nor allow any ground disturbing activities on state parkland until an applicant has demonstrated ownership of subsurface rights.
- Any private entity that has demonstrated legal ownership of subsurface oil and gas rights must complete and submit an application to OPRHP for a Permit for Commercial Use of State Parkland: Oil, Gas and Mineral Proposals.
- The entity must also apply to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for a permit develop oil and/or gas resources under Article 23 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Depending on the specifics of a proposal, the entity may be required to apply for additional DEC permits as well.

- OPRHP will serve as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act for evaluating applications for oil or gas development permits on state parkland in accordance with an existing OPRHP-DEC Memorandum of Understanding.

No entity may initiate actions to develop or install any oil or gas well on state parkland unless it has received the required OPRHP and DEC permits and SEQR approvals.

Where feasible, the Agency will seek to acquire privately-owned subsurface rights from willing sellers when opportunities occur.

Under a related but separate activity, in 1964 New York State entered into a long-term lease (referred to as the "NFG Lease") with a private entity to operate a subsurface natural gas storage field beneath approximately 9,500 acres of Allegany State Park. The natural gas storage field is a naturally occurring and self-contained stratigraphic trap located in the Oriskany sandstone geologic formation deep beneath the surface of the park. During summer months when demand for natural gas is relatively low, the private company that holds this lease actively pumps natural gas from a pipeline that transverses the park, through a series of existing underground distribution lines and wells, into the sandstone formation. During winter months when natural gas demand increases for home heating and other purposes, the company extracts the natural gas, returning it to the pipeline to increase its supply. The location of the gas storage well area is depicted in Figure 11.

OPRHP will continue to work with NFG to protect surface resources in the underground natural gas storage leased area. This lease expires in 2014. Renegotiation of the lease is not addressed within this plan, but rather will be considered as a separate action prior to the 2014 expiration date. The NFG surface infrastructure is not included in the designated Park Preservation Area.

OPRHP will continue coordination and cooperation with DEC in addressing active oil and gas wells in the park and will continue to identify and address safety issues associated with abandoned wells.

Recreation Facility Development and Programs

Camping

Loop A at the Red House Camping area will be re-designed to accommodate larger RVs. The newly designed sites will be provided with electricity of sufficient amperage for RV use. The Red House RV dump-station will be upgraded.

Electric service to Red House and Cain Hollow campsites will be upgraded.

Upgrading, rehabilitation and replacement of wash-houses in Cain Hollow and Red House campsites will be continued. Dish washing stations near wash houses will be developed.

A bear proof refuse/recycling station located at the Red House campground will be developed.

The condition of roads and drainage in the Cain Hollow and Red House areas will be improved.

Primitive/Carry-In Camping

A designated carry-in primitive camping area in the vicinity of Cain Hollow will be developed. This will provide support services, security and controlled use.

Backpack Camping

The use of designated backpack camping areas along the Finger Lakes Trail/North Country Trail will continue. In addition, a portion of the Wolf Run area will be designated for backpack camping, by permit, expanding the opportunity for this activity to other patrons other than just those hiking

through on the trail. Permit conditions will be developed which may limit the number of campers in the area designated, specify parking areas and establish other conditions, as needed.

Cabins and Cottages

There are approximately 350 cabins available for public rental within the park. The tradition of cabin rentals dates to the park's original development in the 1920s and is one of the park's defining features which has been enjoyed by generations of park visitors. Many of the cabin structures are historic, but at the same time face significant deterioration. The status quo for maintaining and replacing existing cabins will be maintained in accordance with the Letter of Resolution (LOR) from OPRHP's Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau. (Appendix H). Five to ten new cottages will be added in a new loop on Bova Road, uphill from Camp Allegany (Figure 12). New cottages will be added on Parallel Trail in the Quaker area in the same footprint as the cabins that are being replaced.

This approach balances the goal of protecting historic resources with the need to rehabilitate and replace deteriorated cabins and expand the level of service available to the park patrons. Existing cabins will be rehabilitated where cost effective or replaced with new cabins where not. The replacement cabins will follow the requirements of the LOR. The new cottage loop in Red House and new cottages in Quaker will increase the level of service consistent with the demand for these accommodations from the public.

Group Camps

The park also has a long tradition of group camps, which consist of cabins and supporting facilities including dining areas, restrooms, shower buildings, and recreation areas.

Camp 5 will be rebuilt to a 72 person capacity with barracks style accommodations for family camping. A new wash house will be designed and built.

Camp 12 will be rebuilt to a 100 person capacity to provide new cabins in the same style as the existing ones. A new wash house will be designed and built and the mess hall will be rehabilitated. The landscape infrastructure and drainage will be improved and an existing court and field area will be developed into an open mowed field.

Camp Allegany will continue to be used and developed as an education facility. The barracks, mess hall, water and electric infrastructure will be rehabilitated. Current capacity will be maintained and the possibility of rehabilitating the buildings for green infrastructure will be explored.

Camp Turner will continue in its current use. A new corral area will be developed on the north side of ASP 3, the footprint of the group camp complex will be updated, and rehabilitation of structures and athletic area needs will be evaluated.

Camp 10 will be developed into an equestrian camping area along with the equestrian camp sites across ASP 2. Three cabins will be maintained, the mess hall will be rehabilitated and the existing wash house open to the public. (See Equestrian Camping discussion, below)

These actions address the need to maintain a level of service that reflects current group camp demand. The education focus of Camp Allegany will benefit park patrons, the region, and educational institutions. Camp Turner will continue to be operated under a concession agreement with some improved facilities. A new equestrian overnight facility in the Group 10 area will add new opportunities for park users.

Visitor Center and Education/Interpretive Center

A new LEED® certified, multi-use building will be designed and constructed in the Beehunter area (Figure 13) This new full service center will house a visitor and nature center and the park interpretive program. This new building will have park information and orientation facilities; exhibits, meeting rooms available for community groups, and one room configured for multi-media presentations. The building will house interpretive program staff offices a park store and bookstore.

A new outdoor amphitheatre will be constructed in the same general area as the new facility.

The new facility will add exciting opportunities that will provide users with information and assistance, such as multi-media presentations and electronic information kiosks. The new center will be an improvement over the current de-centralization of services and will enhance patrons' experience by providing information to help them plan their stay. The meeting rooms will add functionality for park staff and for community groups. The center will be in close proximity to trails that would be utilized for interpretation and can act as a gathering spot before going embarking on park tours.

Equestrian Camping

A permanent equestrian staging and camping area will be developed at Group Camp 10 complimenting the existing equestrian camping facilities across ASP 2. New facilities will be phased to meet increased future demand. A new trail connector will be added to provide additional access to existing equestrian trails in Red House. Three cabins will be rehabilitated and left in place. As the new camping area is built, equestrian camping use of the Stony Cabin area will be phased out.

Three new equestrian staging areas, without camping, will be developed. The locations for these areas are in Bay State, at the Bradford entrance and at Rice Brook on Parkside Drive.

This action will keep equestrian camping centralized and provide for efficient operations. The existing utilities at Group Camp 10 can be extended across the road as necessary. A site specific feasibility study will be performed in order to properly design the facility. This site is on the existing equestrian trail system. The development of three staging areas will broaden the access of equestrian users to the designated trail system

Swimming

The capacity of the existing swimming facilities in Quaker and Red House Lakes is sufficient to meet existing and foreseeable future demands. The current level of service will be maintained including maintenance dredging when necessary. The bath houses will be upgraded incorporating sustainability and energy saving practices where feasible. Drainage will be improved at Quaker Lake beach.

Water quality will continue to be monitored for turbidity and *E. coli.* The current Canada Goose control measures will remain in place.

A study will be conducted on the advisability of reinstating diving at Quaker Lake.

Picnicking

One new picnic shelter will be added at the Quaker Lake area and another at the Red House area. Demand will be monitored to ascertain the need for future additional picnic shelters. There is a high demand for group picnic shelters, which can be satisfied by the development of new shelters. Restrooms at the picnic areas will be upgraded.

Court and Field Games

Basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, miniature golf courses, ball-fields and horseshoe pits in the Quaker and Red House areas will be upgraded. A new basketball court will be developed in the Cain Hollow area in proximity to the camping area.

Playgrounds

The existing playgrounds will continue to be maintained and rehabilitated. This equipment will be improved and replaced as needed.

The playground equipment removed in the Red House area will be replaced.

Boating

Quaker Lake. A new car top boat launch will be developed at the southern end of Quaker Lake. This will increase the area of the lake accessible by boats with electric motors. Parking capacity around the lake will be increased with the addition of parking at the new boat launch and improvements at the existing launch.

The launch area at the existing Quaker Lake facility will be deepened to improve patrons ability to utilize the launch. A boat rental facility near the Quaker Lake beach area will be developed.

Friends Boat Launch. Sanitary facilities and accessibility at the Friends Boat Launch will be improved, increasing the usability of this facility for park patrons.

Hunting

Hunting is a long standing tradition in Allegany State Park. Current hunting opportunities will remain the same. Existing “no hunting zones” will be maintained and adjusted appropriately where and when necessary to maintain the health and safety of park patrons.

Fishing

Fishing is a long standing tradition in the park and will be continued. Special fishing restrictions (delayed harvest segments) will continue on certain streams. Active fish stocking will continue in selected stream segments and the lakes. Ice fishing will continue to be allowed on both Red House and Quaker Lakes. Public access to all fishing areas will be improved to allow a greater segment of the population to take advantage of this activity. This will include an additional accessible fishing platform at Red House Lake.

Sledding

A formal, sledding area will be designated in the Summit area. This area will be able to share services (parking, store, rest rooms, etc.) with the existing cross country ski area.

Summit Warming Hut

The increasing activity of the Summit Area will be served by the expansion of the current building. Expansion to a 150-person capacity will resolve health and safety code issues and provide users with a more functional facility.

Stargazing

Stargazing activities will continue at the park. Permits may be issued for special events. The stargazing activities provided by Allegany State Park’s interpretive program will continue based on available staff. Partnerships with associated organizations can expand the stargazing opportunities currently provided.

Trails

Trails in Allegany State Park will be improved according to the Final Trails Plan included in this Final Master Plan/FEIS as Appendix B.

Cultural Resource Protection

Archaeological Resources

Any proposed project that could result in ground disturbance and potentially affect the cultural resources of the park will require consultation with the agency's Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau (FSB) to determine if a site-specific archeological survey is needed. Exceptions will continue for several types of facility maintenance, which are considered categorical exclusions and therefore will not require surveys, including:

- repaving or regrading of roadways
- replacement or repair of facilities or utilities in the same location or trench
- bridge repair or replacement involving the same abutment
- culvert replacement

Proposals for new trails or significant width expansion of undesignated trails and new buildings will be reviewed by the FSB to determine if additional survey work is needed.

Historic Resources

Rehabilitation and/or modification of contributing structures will be in conformance with the Letter of Resolution (Appendix H) agreed upon with the Field Services Bureau. This memo deals with all structures that contribute to the Nation Register eligibility of the park and provides specific recommendations for their treatment.

Scenic Resource Protection

Fauna and Flora Observation

Areas that have provided opportunities for fauna and flora observation will continue to be managed within the parameters of OPRHP's Policy on the Management of Trees and Other Vegetation (OPRHP, 2009b). An interpretive observation meadow will be developed near Camp Allegany to enhance patron viewing experience through interpretation and education.

Vista Point Management

All designated roadside vista pull offs will continue to be maintained.

Guidelines for vista point management, both roadside and towers, will be developed and implemented to improve the consistency of their management and park patron experience. Stone Tower and Summit Fire Tower vistas will be improved and the historic vistas from the towers will be interpreted, enhancing patrons' appreciation of the park and providing expanded opportunity to enjoy the scenic value and quality of the park.

Mt. Tuscarora will remain closed to public access and its scenic vista will not be improved but the tower will be protected against further deterioration until restoration can be accomplished. A proposal for this restoration will be sought from friends groups that previously restored a tower in the park.

Operations and Infrastructure

Regional Maintenance Center

The current maintenance area will be retained with a phased move of all functions into new facilities above the current Carpenter Shop, west of Quaker Run (Figure 14). The existing buildings will be re-used for park services, as they become available. Those buildings not in immediate use will be stabilized to protect them from deterioration until a use is assigned.

This move will provide modern facilities for maintenance operations that need to be performed and help preserve the park's historic resources by re-using the current buildings for park services.

Sawmill

The sawmill, located in the Red House area, will be stabilized and rehabilitated to provide the park patron an opportunity to view a key aspect of the history of the park. Due to the location of the structure within the maintenance complex, only guided tours will be provided.

Red House Maintenance Facility

The current Red House maintenance facility, which is located in a floodplain adjacent to Red House Creek, will be relocated to the area adjacent to the sawmill (Figure 15). The historic cabin will not be moved. The area of the current facility will be restored and the site interpreted. The existing sewage treatment plant will continue to operate in its present location.

The new location out of the floodplain is better suited to accommodate maintenance functions.

Quaker Area Maintenance Facility

The current facility will be expanded as appropriate with additional parking and new buildings for storage and employee work areas. Site improvements, such as screen plantings or fences and a new service entrance, will be considered.

The current site is adequate for the functions it serves. However, with the addition of storage buildings the functionality of this site will be improved. The location of the facility is highly desirable because of its proximity to where maintenance services are needed in Quaker area.

Quaker Area Administration Building

The Quaker Area Administration Building will continue at its current location with regular scheduled maintenance and the addition of accessible restrooms.

This building is in a convenient central location and has continued, from its original date of construction, to serve as a focus of primary year-round public activity in the Quaker Area of Allegany State Park.

Utilities

Electricity

The park will continue to own the electrical infrastructure within the park boundaries and purchase electricity from National Grid and the Salamanca Board of Public Utilities. New electricity suppliers will be pursued and alternative forms of on site electricity generation, such as the installation of photoelectric solar panels on selected buildings. .

Vehicular Entrance Control/Access

The existing primary controlled entrances will be maintained with the Red House entrance on ASP 2 developed into a "premier" entrance (see discussion below). Development along Route 219 will be monitored to see if improvements to the Limestone entrance are needed to satisfy traffic demand.

Premier Entrance on ASP 2

A new "premier entrance" for the park is appropriate because of the park's stature, size, history and unique natural and recreational resources. A new entrance (Figure 16) will give visitors a sense of arrival that is appropriate to the park. In addition, the building will house facilities that will orient park patrons, provide camper/cabin registration, and provide history and information about the park through staff contact, maps, kiosks or other displays.

Moving camping and cabin rental registration to this new facility will open space for park services in the Administration Building. It will also alleviate traffic congestion around the Administration Building.

Regional Administration Headquarters

The Regional Administration Headquarters, built in the 1930's, is an historically significant example of park architecture and is one of the park's most striking buildings. Located in the Red House Area, the Administration Building houses park visitor services, a café and gift shop, exhibit space, regional staff offices, and the park police office. A Historic Structures report will be developed for this structure to assist in current maintenance activities and guide significant capital investments including utility upgrades (plumbing and electric), energy conservation, ADA compliance and accessibility and the location of park office functions and visitor amenities within the structure. Other improvements will include energy conservation measures, restoration of windows and historic features, and development of a comprehensive landscape plan including interpretive signage.

Roads and Bridges

The existing program of maintenance, repair and reconstruction of the roads and bridges will continue.

Concessions

Concession contracts will enhance the experience of visitors to the park by providing quality products and services at prices comparable to the local market, offered by well-qualified private-sector businesses and/or not-for-profit organizations.

Implementation

The Master Plan sets forth OPRHP's vision for capital improvements and operational enhancements to Allegany State Park for approximately the next ten to fifteen years. As stated at the beginning of this chapter, the agency has not developed detailed cost estimates for each of the proposed actions. Cumulatively, they will cost tens of millions of dollars to implement. The pace and sequencing of recommended actions will be determined by the availability of funding, which is a function of the size of OPRHP's annual capital budget, the need to make significant investments to maintain the park's roads, bridges, utilities, buildings, and infrastructure, and the need to balance capital investments throughout the entire State Park System.

The implementation of the Master Plan for Allegany State Park is divided into three priority phases. (Table 6) The priority groupings described below are conceptual and subject to reorganization based on available funding for specific components in any given group. Implementation of all aspects of

the master plan will be guided by a stewardship team comprised of Allegany State Park and Allegany regional staff and other agency staff as needed.

Table 6 Priority Phases (capital improvements in *italics*)

Implementation Priorities	Description/Development Component
Priority 1:	• Stream water quality monitoring • Dredging of lakes • Create and implement an Invasive Species Management Plan • *Improve Red House RV dump station* • *Upgrade electric service to Red House and Cain Hollow Camping Areas* • *Continue to upgrade wash houses in Red House and Cain Hollow Camping areas* • *Provide Dish washing stations at wash houses* • *Improve roads and drainage at Red House and Cain Hollow Camping areas* • *Construct new wash house at Group Camp 5* • *Construct new barracks accommodations at Group Camp 5* • *Construct new corral area at Camp Turner on north side of ASP 3* • Upgrade court and field areas • *Replace Red House playground equipment* • Deepen existing boat launch at Quaker Lake • Designate formal sledding area in the Summit area • *Expand Summit warming hut* • *Continue to move Regional Maintenance Area uphill above the Carpenter's workshop* • *Add accessible restroom to Quaker Administration Building* • Designate back pack camping area in Wolf Run • Develop Historic Structures Report and continue capital projects at Regional Administration Building • Implement Trails Plan • *Re-build Science Lake dam*
Priority 2:	• Reduce density at Red House campsites • *Construct new wash house and rehabilitate existing mess hall at Group Camp 12* • *Rehabilitate structures and utilities at Camp Allegany* • *Construct new visitor/nature center* • *New equestrian camping center at Group Camp 10* • *Upgrade Quaker and Red House bath houses* • *Construct new picnic shelters* • *Construct new basketball courts at Cain Hollow* • *Construct new cartop boat launch at southern end of Quaker Lake* • *Improve sanitary facilities and accessibility at Friends Boat*

	Launch • Develop and implement guidelines for vista point management • Improve Stone Tower and Summit Fire Tower vistas • *Stabilize Sawmill* • Designate primitive camping area in Cain Hollow • *Rehabilitate Red House dam*
Priority 3:	• *Create premier park entrance on ASP 2* • Dredging of Lakes • *Rehab Quaker Lake dam* • *Bear proof refuse/recycling station at Red House camping area* • *Develop new cottage loop on Bova Road above Camp Allegany* • *Build new cabins at Group Camp 12* • *Install landscaping and drainage improvements at Group Camp 12* • *Develop equestrian staging areas at Bay State, Bradford entrance and Rice Brook* • *Develop boat rental near Quaker Lake beach* • *Stabilize Mt. Tuscarora tower for preservation* • *Improve storage and employee work area at Quaker Maintenance Facility*

Sustainability

In keeping with its strong commitment to sustainability, OPRHP will continue to increase the incorporation of sustainable practices into its daily operations. In addition, OPRHP will implement, and where appropriate encourage, its partners to implement, the following measures.

Energy Conservation

The agency will explore the harnessing of renewable energy sources, such as photo-electric solar panels, hydroelectric power, and geothermal heating systems. Heating and cooling improvements, such as attic fans to decrease the energy use of air conditioners, and centralized air to replace wall units, will be added, where possible.

Water Conservation and Stormwater Management

Bathrooms and kitchens will be updated, where needed, with water saving fixtures such as reduced flush toilets.

Stormwater management will be improved with enhanced infiltration systems, rain gardens, wetlands, or other practices, as appropriate.

Building and Infrastructure Design and Maintenance

Green building design principles, methods, and materials will be integrated into all new construction and rehabilitation.

Carbon Sequestration/Greenhouse Gases

The reduced mowing program will continue and be expanded where feasible. The decreased fuel consumption will reduce greenhouse gas production and the additional vegetation will increase carbon sequestration. New plantings will be designed with native plants and water conservation principles.

Relationship to Other Programs

Allegany State Park staff continues to be committed to collaborating with groups that are interested in furthering the mission of the park. The park staff is also interested in working with other groups to further the park's contribution to and participation in the recreation resources of the area.

The park, through the regional office, continues to reach out to the larger service area to encourage individuals, groups and agencies to contribute to the park.

The park will continue to work with state and federal agencies, such as New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as county and regional governments.

Chapter 7: Environmental Review

Introduction

This chapter focuses on environmental impacts and mitigation of adverse effects. For the purposes of SEQR compliance, however, the entire document (Master Plan/FEIS) satisfies the requirements for an environmental impact statement as specified in Part 617, the rules and regulations implementing SEQR. Chapter 6 contains a description of the proposed action. The environmental setting is discussed in Chapter 3. Chapter 5 and Appendix A contain the alternatives analysis.

This chapter has two primary parts: a summary of environmental impacts associated with alternatives, and a more detailed analysis of impacts associated with implementation of the Final Master Plan, including a discussion of mitigation measures.

Environmental Impacts of Alternatives

Alternatives were developed in Appendix A for various recreation and support activities at the park, as well as natural resource issues. These alternatives were based on information about existing conditions, an analysis of recommended directions for various activities and constraints, and considerations identified in the resources analysis. The preferred alternative for the entire park (i.e. the Final Master Plan) consists of the preferred alternative for each identified activity.

Much of the information on the environmental impacts of alternative actions is discussed in Appendix A. This chapter summarizes the findings from the impact analysis which make up the preferred alternative and the Status Quo alternative.

Status Quo

This alternative consists of the current facilities, programs and practices at the park as described in Chapter 3. Under this alternative, current resource protection, operation, and facility management practices would continue. The increasing recreational demand on the park would not be addressed, or impacts mitigated, nor would opportunity for conservation of the resources under recent changes to Environmental Conservation Law or PRHP law be addressed.

The Status Quo alternative would not result in any additional adverse environmental impacts. The potential for long-term indirect adverse environmental impacts is likely, however, since there would be no plan to guide use, protection or development of the park. As more park visitors seek to use the park, additional demands will be placed on the natural, cultural and recreational resources. Without the guidance provided by the Master Plan, which directs more intensive use and development toward areas with capacity for such use and away from the more sensitive areas of the park, the potential for adverse impacts on environmental resources increases.

Trail proposals would occur and be addressed on a case-by-case basis without the guidance of an overall trails plan for the entire park. Undesignated trails would continue to proliferate in areas of the park that might not support their use. Issues such as the introduction of invasive species of plants and wildlife into the park would be handled on a case-by-case basis as they arose.

Preferred Alternative and the Final Master Plan

The preferred alternative is the compilation of the preferred recreation activity and support facility options identified in Appendix A. This compilation was subject to a final evaluation (or synthesis) to assure that there was consistency among the various alternatives. This final assessment resulted in the Final Master Plan (Chapter 6). The final plan will provide considerable recreational and resource

protection benefits. The final plan identifies potential adverse impacts, both short and long term, and ways to, if not eliminate them, minimize them to the fullest extent possible through appropriate mitigation measures. From a long-term perspective, implementation of the park master plan will result in a beneficial environmental impact by insuring that the most sensitive areas of the park will be identified, monitored and provided appropriate stewardship. Environmental impacts of the final master plan are discussed more fully in the rest of this chapter.

Environmental Impacts Associated with Implementation of the Final Master Plan and Proposed Mitigation

Land (Topography, Geology and Soils)

The master plan for Allegany State Park seeks to provide improvements to existing recreation while providing additional protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources within the park. Planning for new facilities in the park reflects this and the proposed locations of new facilities avoid sensitive resources. Implementation of the plan, however, will result in some physical change and disturbance to the land, particularly where new buildings, recreation facilities, parking and trails are proposed. Most of the park will continue to remain in a natural, forested state.

The final master plan calls for continued rehabilitation and maintenance of the parks considerable existing facilities. New buildings and facilities proposed in the plan include: a new visitor center and amphitheater in the Beehunter Area; a new cottage loop in the Red House area off Bova Road and continuation of replacement of older cabins on the Parallel trail in Quaker with cottages; relocation of both the Regional and Red House maintenance areas including construction of new buildings; construction of two new storage buildings in the Quaker maintenance area; development of basketball courts in the Cain Hollow camping area; development of a premier entrance at the Red House park entrance; development of a new car-top boat launch at the south end of Quaker Lake; expansion of the warming hut in the Summit area; and development of a bikeway in the Quaker Area from the beach to Science Lake.

The largest potential impacts on land would result from the construction of new trails. The Final Trails Plan for the park (Appendix B) calls for about 48 ½ miles of new trail development in the park. Designated parking spaces in the park would increase by roughly 20 percent. The trails planning process allowed OPRHP to take a comprehensive look at the park's trail system, evaluate the condition of existing designated and undesignated trails, and evaluate proposals for new trails. The proposed new trails provide new recreational opportunities, offer loops of varying lengths for different abilities, and offer many new opportunities for environmental education at the park. In addition, evaluation of the entire trail system as a whole has resulted in recommendations for improvements to trail drainage in some locations and closure of ½ mile of designated trail and approximately 47 miles of currently used but undesignated trails that were no longer needed.

Most of the proposed new developments will occur in areas of the park that are already developed and will require minimal land disturbance. Most of the proposed increase in parking capacity will be accomplished though either formalizing or re-striping existing areas to better define where cars should park or slightly enlarging existing gravel pull-offs. Pervious pavement will be used in design of new parking areas wherever possible, particularly in areas close to streams, such as the new premier park entrance on ASP 2 in Red House. Pervious pavement use will help prevent runoff from reaching streams following storm events. Proper design of roads, trails and facilities is essential to reduce the risk of runoff and erosion. Proper drainage design is also important to retain water on site and assure there is no runoff or sedimentation to sensitive park resources such as streams or lakes. Buffers will be put in place to further protect stream water quality.

As shown in Figure 6, a considerable portion of the park contains areas where the soils and slopes combine to pose a severe hazard for erosion of roads or trails. Proposed new buildings, such as the nature center, new cottages in Red House, and relocated maintenance buildings, are located in areas with slight to moderate erosion hazard, away from areas of high erosion hazard. Some of the proposed new trail segments, however, are located in areas with moderate to severe hazard for erosion. Careful planning and site-specific design will be applied to these trails to minimize the potential for erosion.

The construction of some new trails will result in some vegetation removal and soil disturbance depending on the type and location of the trail. For example, in many cases, construction of a new segment of hiking trail may only require selecting the most appropriate route through the forest, trimming some vegetation and installing signs or blazes to mark the trail. Impacts of trail construction will vary based on the proposed use of the trail, its proposed surfacing, and its location with respect to steep slopes and streams. Disturbance will be limited primarily to the required width of the trail corridor (i.e. 4-6 feet for hiking and single track mountain biking trails, 5-6 feet for equestrian and 8-12 feet for snowmobile trails, unless they are on existing roadways). As noted in the Final Trails Plan (Appendix B), trail construction will follow the policies and guidelines for trail building that have been established by recognized trail organizations and government agencies. Adherence to these guidelines will assure that work is completed in a manner that maximizes protection of park resources.

An erosion control plan will be prepared for all construction projects proposed in the Master Plan that have the potential to disturb park soils or result in erosion. Any projects that disturb one acre or more will be subject to the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit process. This process includes the development of a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) and sedimentation and erosion control plans. Best management practices (BMP's) as described in the New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control (NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee, 2005) will be used to reduce impacts to soils on the project sites. Some measures which might be used include minimizing soil disturbance and vegetation clearing, the use of silt fencing and straw bales where needed, preservation of vegetated buffers, and seeding and mulching of disturbed areas as soon as possible following work.

No new buildings or facilities are proposed in flood-prone areas within the park. In fact, the two maintenance areas that are currently located adjacent to streams prone to flooding will be relocated to higher ground.

In all, approximately 57 acres will be modified within the roughly 65,000 acre park (0.001%). This includes about 13 acres of new impervious surfaces (pavement and roof areas), approximately 10 acres in new gravel or pervious parking areas or other facilities, and approximately 34 acres in new trails with either a natural or stone dust surface. Overall, changes to the park as a whole will be minimal.

Water

As identified in an earlier report by DEC (Cornett, 1996) many of the streams in the park are able to support native brook trout populations due to their excellent water quality conditions. Three stream communities of statewide significance were identified by the Natural Heritage Program (Evans et al, 2004) with the indication that several more outstanding streams would likely be identified with further survey work. One of the goals of the Final Master Plan is to protect the quality and quantity of surface and subsurface water resources of the park.

The final plan will result in beneficial impacts to water resources within the park. The Regional and Red House Area maintenance centers are both currently located adjacent to important streams.

Routine maintenance operations can result in runoff of pollutants into the streams. In addition the maintenance areas are located in flood prone areas. One area, the Red House maintenance area, is located immediately downstream from the Red House Lake dam. The Final Master Plan calls for relocation of both maintenance centers away from the streams, and cleanup and restoration of the areas. The final plan also calls for continuation of a stream monitoring program involving tributaries in the Quaker Run watershed to help detect any changes in stream water quality potentially caused by oil and gas well drilling activities across the border in Pennsylvania. Baseline data has been collected on the streams and additional monitoring would be conducted on an annual basis to determine if there have been any significant changes in water quality. We anticipate installing a real-time monitoring station so that changes in water quality resulting from a pollution event can be discovered quickly and remedial actions taken as soon as possible. Stream water quality monitoring will also be initiated in other park streams, especially those adjacent to proposed projects. As spring seeps and ephemeral wetland areas (which have higher potential for biodiversity value) are identified within the park, their locations will be identified using a GPS unit and mapped. These areas will then receive additional protection in planning for future projects.

The park's three manmade lakes are subject to large loads of sediment being deposited near their inlets. Sediment loads are especially detrimental in Red House Lake as the inlet is relatively close to the bathing beach. The beach at Red House Lake experiences periodic closures as a result of poor visibility and turbidity from suspended sediments in the water, especially following storm events. The depths at the boat launch area at the north end of Quaker Lake are currently not adequate to launch some boats. The final plan calls for continuation of periodic maintenance dredging of the three lakes as needed. Maintenance dredging has been carried out in Red House and Quaker Lakes in the past. Continued maintenance dredging of the lakes has the potential over the long term to improve water quality but can result in temporary short term adverse impacts during dredging operations. Beneficial impacts of maintenance dredging include the provision of adequate lake depths for recreational use, increased storage capacity in the lakes for future sediments, and improved aesthetics and beach water quality. As dredging projects are proposed they will be subject to DEC and US Army Corps of Engineers permit processes and reviews. The following measures will be incorporated into project designs to minimize short-term impacts during construction. Prior to dredging, lake levels will be lowered to allow the work to be done "in the dry" with standard earth moving equipment. This will reduce the potential for siltation impacts to the rest of the lake. Fish will be able to survive in the deeper parts of the lakes not affected by the drawdown. No work will occur during fish spawning and propagation periods. The amount of work to be performed in the water will be minimized. Excessive or repeated unnecessary disturbances of the streambeds will not be permitted. Expediency of the work will also mitigate streambed disturbance. All disturbed shoreline areas will be revegetated with native vegetation to reduce future erosion and improve aesthetics. No work will be done within the channels of protected streams. Careful consideration will be given to the location for disposal of dredge spoils so they will not impact other water bodies in the park. Silt fence barriers will be installed around the spoil areas and spoil areas will be planted with a seed mix of native grasses to prevent erosion. Sediment and erosion control plans will be required prior to any dredging work. For Red House Lake, installation of a sedimentation basin or basins will be considered to trap sediments prior to their reaching the beach area. This could potentially improve the conditions at the beach and result in a reduction in beach closures following storms.

One of the largest potential threats to the park's lakes is the introduction of invasive aquatic species. Small amounts of Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) were found in both Red House and Quaker Lakes during 2009 surveys. OPRHP will conduct a more detailed survey of the lakes to determine the locations and extent of the milfoil and the appropriate control actions. Potential

control options include mechanical harvesting (hand or suction pulling), biological controls, use of benthic barriers, and others. Signage will also be installed at all boat launches informing patrons about the need to clean boats and equipment when travelling from one lake to another to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species.

Other projects proposed within the final Master Plan with the potential to impact water quality include construction of the new premier entrance at Red House construction of the new proposed visitor center in the Beehunter Area near Beehunter Creek, conversion of Group Camp 10 to an equestrian camping area near upper Red House Creek, and reduction in site density of Loop A in the Red House Camping Area near Stoddard Creek. For these projects and others that will occur close to water resources, efforts will be taken to reduce the runoff of stormwater from construction sites into streams and lakes. Erosion control and stormwater management techniques (as discussed above under Land) will be incorporated into the detailed site designs for these areas. A 50-foot buffer between any new buildings or parking areas and streams will be retained in these areas, with additional native buffer plantings as needed.

Current pavement and non-pervious surfaces in the park are fairly limited consisting mostly of the major roadways, the five-mile Red House Bikeway, parking areas for some of the larger facilities such as the beaches, stores, picnic areas and rental offices, camping and some cabin loop roads, and the buildings in the park. Together, these make up only a small fraction of the 65,000 acre park. New pavement proposed within the final master plan includes a new 7.6 mile bikeway in the Quaker Area of which only 5.6 miles (6.8 acres) will be paved, some additional parking and roadway for the new visitor center (2.5 acres), and for the new premier park entrance in the Red House area (1.5 acres). In addition, surface area of new buildings with impervious roofs will include the new visitor center, new building at Red House Entrance, new Red House Cottages, and new Maintenance Buildings in the Red House, Quaker and Regional Maintenance Areas for a total of approximately 2 acres. Other proposed new impervious surfaces include new basketball courts in the Cain Hollow camping area (0.2 acres). The total proposed acreage of all of these new impervious surfaces is approximately 13 acres. The area of greatest concern is the paved portion of the Quaker Bikeway since it will be located close to Quaker Run for most of its length. Extra care will be taken during the design and construction of this bikeway to minimize both short and long term impacts to the stream using best management practices, erosion control measures, buffers, plantings, SWPP, flood plain avoidance, minimal disturbance of soils near water bodies and other measures as discussed above. The section of the bikeway from Stony Creek to Science Lake (2.4 acres) will not be paved but will be surfaced with stone dust or a similar more pervious material.

An increase in impervious surfaces could result in an increase in the quantity and velocity of runoff generated during storm events. Permeable materials will be used whenever practicable with respect to cost and operations, especially for parking areas. The new roads and parking areas will have drainage infrastructure designed to mitigate stormwater runoff. Green design will be utilized for the buildings as much as possible to minimize the effects of roof runoff.

Proposals in the Final Trails Plan have the potential to impact water quality. Work on trails including improvements to existing trails and undesignated trails, as well as proposed new trails, have the potential to impact water resources in the park. The Final Trails Plan identifies several trails with drainage problems, including standing water and seasonal wet areas. Standard water abatement techniques may help remediate these concerns. Work on existing trails and upgrades to undesignated trails will be undertaken using the established guidelines referenced in the Final Trails Plan. Trail areas that require more than routine measures will be identified through the approval process identified in the plan and remedies, such as construction of culverts, bridges or boardwalks, will be planned in conjunction with regional and park staff. Some projects may require consultation and

permits from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the US Army Corps of Engineers. Regional staff will review proposals and consult with these agencies as appropriate.

Some of the proposed trails involve stream crossings or are located close to streams. The Crick's Run to Holts Run trail, for example, is located along an old road right-of-way. There are major problems with the former drainage structures in this area and the trail goes through some wetland areas and will contain at least one stream crossing. The proposed Hardscrabble connection to the Red House Entrance area will require a new bridge across Red House Creek. The proposed Cain Hollow interpretive loop is also located in an area with shrub swamp and shallow emergent marsh and may require some bridges or boardwalks to cross wet areas. Several of the proposed new trails such as the hiking trail along the shore of Quaker Lake, and the Bridal Falls trail, among others, are close to streams or lakes. Site-specific design of these trails will include a field visit by the regional biologist during actual layout of the trail. During field layout of trails, the agency will attempt to minimize stream crossings to the extent possible and provide a buffer between new trails and water bodies. All new trail work will be designed to control stormwater and minimize erosion. All plans will be reviewed to assure that stormwater management and sediment and erosion control measures are incorporated into design and construction. Following construction, the trails will be monitored to ensure that drainage and erosion control measures are working effectively.

Development of oil and gas wells could also result in impacts to water resources within the park. For example, several proposed wells currently being drilled in Pennsylvania are within the Quaker Run watershed within the park. This development has the potential to impact Quaker Run and certain of its tributaries. The Agency has initiated a stream water quality monitoring program in these areas within the park and will also conduct baseline monitoring of the groundwater wells serving the Quaker area of the park. Periodic monitoring of these resources will assist in the detection of any impacts. A real time monitoring station is also proposed so that impacts can be identified and responded to immediately following a pollution event. Development of privately owned subsurface rights within the park for oil or gas could also affect the water resources of the park. The Agency's policy on oil and gas, protocol, permit and environmental review processes, as outlined in Chapter 3 will be used to minimize any potential impacts to park resources.

Wetlands

The park contains two NYS DEC designated wetlands below Red House Lake and along the Tunungwant Creek and several smaller wetland areas located near other streams (Figure 8). These wetlands are important contributors to the biodiversity of the park. An interpretive trail is planned near the Red House wetland. Sections of this trail may use boardwalks to protect the wetland areas. Site specific design of this trail will involve erosion control measures as discussed above and will likely involve application for an Article 24 permit from NYS DEC. Consultation with the US Army COE will occur for trail work in federal wetland areas.

A major threat to all wetlands is the expansion of invasive species, particularly purple loosestrife, common reed and Japanese knotweed. A large area of Japanese knotweed already exists near the Red House wetland. The Master Plan calls for a comprehensive approach to invasive species control, which will have a beneficial impact on the park's wetlands. Removal of invasive species to allow for regeneration of native species of plants, and providing restoration plantings where needed, will restore and protect this biodiversity.

Air

Potential air quality impacts as a result of master plan implementation will be minimal. Overall vehicle use of the park is not expected to increase significantly. The proposed Quaker Area bikeway

could even improve air quality in that area of the park as more campers would be expected to ride bicycles from their cabins to the beach and other areas in Quaker instead of driving. Short term temporary impacts that may occur as a result of master plan implementation could include minor temporary increases in vehicle exhaust and some generation of dust during construction. Construction of projects proposed in the Master Plan will take place over several years, however, so impacts would be widely spread out both in space and time. Air quality impacts from construction vehicles will be mitigated by assuring that these vehicles are in good running condition and are not producing excessive exhaust.

Biological Resources/Ecology

It has been documented by many organizations including OPRHP, the New York Natural Heritage Program, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) and New York Audubon that Allegany State Park contains very significant natural resources. The importance of the natural resources within the park is recognized by the designation of a major part of the park as a Park Preservation Area, and designation of the entire park as a Bird Conservation Area and a Natural Heritage Area. The Park Preservation Area includes the entire park, with the exception of developed areas, existing roads, the existing and proposed snowmobile trail system and wellhead areas and roads within the National Fuel Gas storage area (Figure 11). This designation recognizes that the area proposed for designation is an invaluable and irreplaceable part of the state's natural heritage, which warrants special recognition and protection for future generations. In general, the Park Preservation Area is almost entirely undeveloped. Consistent with Article 20 of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (PRHPL), this designation provides recognition of the resources and a framework for their conservation and use in environmental education. (Appendix J) The total projected development of the entire park, including both existing and proposed new facilities and trails, is estimated to be less than 7.1% of the park. Development within the Park Preservation Area, such as new trails, is estimated at less than 0.001% of the park.

Overall, the Master Plan will have a positive impact on the natural resources within the park. Limited new facility development is proposed for the park. Most of the proposed new improvements such as the new visitor center, premier park entrance in Red House, and Red House Cottages will be located in developed areas with limited environmental sensitivity and which generally are located close to existing infrastructure. The final Trails Plan recognizes the sensitivity of the park's resources and incorporates measures for site-specific review of new trail routes to assure that trails do not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. In addition, several large areas of forest in the park will be left undeveloped with no trails in order to protect species requiring large forested blocks and little human disturbance.

Ecological Communities

Nearly every part of Allegany State Park contains natural communities that have been documented as significant by the Natural Heritage Program (Evans et al, 2004) (Figure 10). The importance of the natural resources of the park will be recognized with the designation of the park as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA). Designation of the park as an NHA will promote recognition of these exceptional resources as well as providing for additional environmental interpretive opportunities.

Master Plan implementation will necessarily result in impacts to certain of the natural communities in the park. Table 7 provides a breakdown of the maximum total parkland areas impacted in each Ecological Community type. A maximum of about 57 acres would be impacted. Of this amount, about 13 acres are currently developed or lawn area and another 3.5 acres are in Red Pine or Scotch Pine plantations. Of the 60,710 acres of natural communities of statewide significance identified in

Allegany State Park, approximately 34.5 acres (0.0006%) would be directly impacted by construction of new trails and facilities.

Table 7 Ecological Community types affected by Master Plan implementation*

Ecological community type	Maximum Acres Impacted
Allegheny Oak Forest	**0.63**
Beech-Maple Mesic Forest	**0.49**
Conifer Plantation	3.47
Developed and Lawn	12.88
Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forest	**12.22**
Maple-Basswood Rich Mesic Forest	**2.24**
Rich Mesophytic Forest	**18.92**
Shallow Emergent Marsh	0.05
Shrub Swamp	0.51
Shrub swamp shallow emergent marsh	0.39
Successional northern hardwoods	2.75
Successional Old Field	2.27
Totals	56.82
Total Sig. ecol. communities	**34.5**

***Bold indicates significant ecological communities**

Trail use is one of the primary recreational opportunities in the park. There are 147.37 miles of existing designated and 65.8 miles of undesignated trails of all types amounting to approximately 221.2 acres (0.003 %). These existing trails are located in practically every ecological community type in the park. Trail use, rehabilitation of existing trails, bringing certain undesignated trails up to trail standards and the construction of new trail segments will result in both positive and negative impacts to ecological communities. Significant steps have been taken to eliminate or minimize significant adverse impact with trail expansion. For example, Allegheny Oak Forest is a significant ecological community unique to the unglaciated portion of the state. Two of the four occurrences located in the Cain Hollow and Brown Hollow areas of the park are the largest in the state. New trail proposals in this important community were carefully evaluated to minimize impacts and one proposed trail in the Cain Hollow Area was relocated to avoid this significant community type. Of the 1816 acres of this community type in the park, a maximum of about 0.6 acres could be impacted. Other significant ecological communities that could be impacted include approximately ½ acre of Beech-Maple Mesic Forest, about 2 ¼ acres of Maple-Basswood Rich Mesic Forest, 12 ¼ acres of Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forest, and 19 acres of the Rich Mesophytic Forest. It is likely that impacts to these important communities will be lower once the new trails are actually laid out in the field. Estimates used for determining acreages assumed that the entire corridor width for each trail type would be cleared. In many cases, it may not be necessary to clear such a wide area in order to locate a trail. Proposed routes for new trails and other facilities will be carefully placed using appropriate design and construction methods to minimize impacts.

The 5320 acres of old growth forests in the park have been documented as the fifth largest occurrence in the state (Evans et al, 2004). The eight occurrences in the park are of exceptional size and quality and contain excellent species diversity, age class diversity and horizontal and vertical structure. The final Master Plan could affect approximately 2.1 acres of old growth forest, primarily in areas designated as hiking trails. For example, there is a short interpretive trail proposed through a portion of the old growth area. This trail will allow the public to observe old growth forest first hand and to gain a better appreciation of its significance. Site-specific design of this trail does not call for disturbance of old growth trees in any way and will minimize actual disturbance of other elements of this important community type.

Vegetation/Plants

The Master Plan will have beneficial impacts on the vegetation within the park. The designation of portions of the park as Park Preservation Areas under Article 20 of PRHPL includes provisions for protection, research and interpretation of these resources.

Past management of the park has included some modest control of invasive plants when problems were identified. The master plan will provide more formal recognition of management strategies to control invasive plants, particularly those affecting sensitive species and habitats. Prevention of new occurrences is included as an element of invasive species management within the plan, with an eventual goal to eradicate invasive species and identify and protect invasives free zones within the park. Invasive species control will benefit native plants and communities by providing them more opportunity to persist in the park. Once they are established, native plants require less maintenance and have far greater ecological value than non-native alternatives. Since these native species have adapted together over many years in this area, the mutual relationships that have evolved will be a benefit to both native plant and animal populations.

The Master Plan calls for restoration of native vegetation in certain areas of the park. Any invasive species found in these areas will be removed and disposed of in a manner that will protect the existing native plants populations. Any new plantings will be native or historically appropriate non-invasive plants. Landscape planting will use plants indigenous to the area wherever possible. Selection of plant species or communities of species should be site specific, taking into consideration the natural, ecological, historic, archeological, and aesthetic elements in the immediate areas as well as the management goals of the park.

A significant emphasis of the Master Plan is on the rehabilitation and renovation of the park's existing and extensive recreation facilities and support facilities. There are relatively few major new facilities proposed and these developments will result in minimal tree removal since they are located in areas that are already developed or mowed. Exceptions to this include the proposed relocations of both the Red House and Regional Maintenance Centers. The new area proposed for the Red House Maintenance Center includes an old Red Pine plantation. In order to replace some of the large maintenance buildings and work areas, an area of about two acres will need to be disturbed. In addition, the proposed new location for the Regional Maintenance Area in the Quaker area may result in approximately ¾ acre of tree removal of a Maple basswood rich mesic community and a Hemlock northern hardwood community (Figures 14 and 15). Both of these maintenance centers are currently located very close to streams and present high potential for impacting water quality and downstream natural resources. Both facilities, or portions of them, can be considered within floodplains and adjacent to wetland. Current impacts of these facilities due to location outweigh the impacts of relocation. Site-specific designs for the new facilities will seek to minimize the amount of tree removal to the extent possible and site-specific surveys will be conducted for the presence of rare plants. Findings from these surveys will be used to develop site designs that minimize impacts on natural resources. Some of the proposed new cottages in the Red House area near Bova will also require some tree removal in an area of Maple-Basswood Rich Mesic Forest. Up to four acres in this area could be impacted. Other proposals within the final Master Plan, such as new equestrian/snowmobile staging areas, construction of the Quaker Area bikeway, and some of the proposed new trails, could also result in some vegetation impacts. Tree removal will be minimized through careful siting of roads, trails and facilities. Site-specific surveys will be conducted to assure that there are no rare species or habitats present. All the work in facility relocation and site design will be in keeping with OPRHP's tree management policy (OPRHP 2009b).

Restoration of past historic scenic vistas throughout the park will be subject to vista restoration planning and designation, and such restoration of vistas will require selective removal of tree limbs and branches as well as some trees and shrubs. This plan will call for the gradual restoration of these

scenic vistas. Guidance will be provided through the regional landscape architects and the Field Services Bureau. Resource inventories will also be conducted prior to any clearing to assure that sensitive habitats or species will not be impacted,

The park's scenic quality is one of its most important resources. Thus, it is the policy of State Parks not to develop park owned oil and gas resources with the concomitant installation of roads, wells and other ancillary facilities in the park. The park is known, however, to have privately owned subsurface mineral rights within the park's boundary. The park's policy does not encourage development of these resources. When such is proposed, however, the agency's permitting and environmental review processes require biological surveys of any sites to be impacted, as well as a full review under SEQR.

As recommended by the Natural Heritage Program (Lundgren and Smith, 2009), OPRHP will continue to monitor trail use and recreation sites for impacts to vegetation and natural communities. Impacts will be monitored to ensure rapid response to trail degradation from overuse. Consideration will be given to adding boardwalks to bridges on trails in seasonally wet areas that receive heavy use.

Animals

Overall, the proposed Master Plan will result in beneficial impacts to the park's fish and wildlife resources. Designation of the park as a Bird Conservation Area will provide added recognition of the importance of the park for migratory and nesting birds. A Management Guidance Summary will be developed for the BCA. Additional funds may also be available through the BCA program for bird survey work, construction of kiosks and other educational materials.

Invasive species management under the plan will benefit native animals as well as native plants. Since the native species in this area have been coexisting and have adapted together over many years, the mutual relationships that have evolved will continue.

Most of the proposed new facility developments are located in areas that are already developed for recreational use. These improvements and new developments will result in little impact on the wildlife in the area. Current wildlife policies and practices such as fish stocking, hunting and control of nuisance wildlife as needed will continue in consultation with DEC. OPRHP is developing a wildlife manual that will provide additional guidance to facility managers and other staff regarding these and other wildlife issues. Part of this manual will address damage caused by wildlife, and when and how to take action to address such damage concerns.

The construction and use of new trails in the park has the potential to impact wildlife. Wildlife can be impacted by trails, either directly through trail creation, or indirectly though the effects associated with trail uses. Several researchers have demonstrated impacts of recreational activities on wildlife (Trails and Wildlife Task Force et. al., 1998; Taylor and Knight, 2003; Miller and Knight, 1998). Wildlife impacts can vary depending on the species, their flushing distances, type and location of the trail activity and its predictability, the time of year, wildlife activity and habitat type, and whether recreationists have pets with them (Stein, 2007, Jordan, 2000).

Most of the new trails proposed within the final Trails Plan will occur in areas of the park that are already heavily used by recreationists. Site-specific design of these trails will include surveys for sensitive or rare species or habitats. For example, ephemeral wetlands and spring seeps can be critical habitats for some species of reptiles and amphibians. If needed, proposed trails will be re-routed around these areas to avoid or minimize any adverse impacts. Timing of construction and trail uses can also be planned to minimize impacts on wildlife. For example, some wildlife are more sensitive to disturbance during the breeding or nesting season; winter disturbances can cause some

wildlife to expend needed energy resources (e.g. the flushing of raptors). The proposed plan keeps most of the more heavily used winterized trails in the eastern portion of the park, away from areas with species more sensitive to trail impacts.

There is a need for more specific research on the indirect impacts of trail use on biodiversity. What is known, however, is that the level of impact depends upon the type of habitat, the species present in the area, the trail characteristics and levels of use (Trails and Wildlife Task Force et. al., 1998). Trails with bare soil can act as a barrier to some species with low motility. Trails can also act as corridors for the movement of nest predators such as brown cowbirds and raccoons and other generalists that can tolerate the disturbed conditions (Stein, 2007).

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been working to identify large, roadless blocks of forest remaining in the park. These forests are large contiguous areas whose size and natural condition allow for the maintenance of dynamic ecological processes and meet the space requirements of breeding species associated with forest interior conditions (TNC, 2002). TNC identified Allegany State Park as one of the most highly intact forested landscapes in western New York and the Allegheny River watershed. TNC noted that the park contains two large forested blocks of 11,000 and 16,000 acres and several smaller blocks that are not fragmented by paved roads. These forest interiors provide important areas for a suite of wildlife species that are sensitive to disturbances (Lundgren and Smith, 2009b). TNC's Allegheny River Basin Conservation Plan for New York and Pennsylvania (TNC, 2008) identified 74 species of interest that depend on or prefer large forest interior conditions similar to the roadless blocks of forest. The High Allegheny Plateau Ecoregional Plan (TNC, 2002) recommended reserves of 10,000 to 15,000 acres to support large viable populations of broad-winged hawks, coopers hawks, and neotropical migrant bird species such as Cerulean Warbler, Black and White Warbler and Worm eating warbler that benefit from large intact forests. The Upper Allegheny River Basin Conservation Action Plan (TNC, 2008) identifies the size of good to very good forest interior areas as having at least 4,000 to 6000 acres. The Natural Heritage Report (Evans, 2004) recommended that Special Concern Woodland Raptors be considered in planning for the park including minimizing disturbances within 402 meters of nests.

The proposed Master Plan and Trails Plan for Allegany State Park represents a balance between the two elements of OPRHP's mission statement to "…provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources." Plan implementation will reduce the amount of interior forest areas in the park through construction of some new trails. The master plan does not propose any new road development, thus the large roadless blocks in the park identified by TNC will remain intact. During trails planning, OPRHP sought to reduce impacts to large forest interior areas by retaining several large intact forest blocks that are free of roads and trails. Following full trail plan implementation, interior forest blocks of 6200 acres, 4216 acres, 3900 acres, and two areas of 2400 acres in size will be retained as interior forest areas. These areas will be protected from further development as findings from both OPRHP and outside research on the effects of roads and/or trails on interior forested areas continue to unfold.

Rare, threatened and endangered species of fish and wildlife in the park, and their habitat, will receive special protection efforts. The high diversity of freshwater mussels and fish found in lower Red House Brook will benefit from relocation of the Red House maintenance area away from that stream. As recommended by the NHP (Lundgren and Smith, 2009) stream monitoring will be conducted for pH and other water quality parameters in this stream to help establish baseline parameters needed to support these species. Site specific project design for all master plan projects will include surveys for rare species and, if found, mitigation measures will be initiated to protect the rare species. Due to the large size of the park, it has not been possible for the Natural Heritage

Program staff to survey the entire park. Opportunities for additional inventories in the park by scientists and researchers will be entertained when possible to help increase the agency's knowledge and protection of rare species.

Invasive Species

Trail uses, boating and other recreational uses can facilitate the spread of invasive species. Invasive plant seed can be inadvertently introduced on construction equipment and through the use of mulch, imported soil, gravel, and sod. In the past, throughout the state, some invasive plant species have been intentionally planted for erosion control, landscape, or wildflower projects. In addition, firewood poses significant risk of movement of invasive forest pests, through transport to other locations. Such wood is often from trees that have died or are weakened or damaged by invasive insects or diseases, even if the exact pests have not been found or identified. Invasive plants and animals can migrate into the park from the surrounding communities through such pathways as firewood.

The latest update of the Natural Heritage Program report for Allegany State Park (Lundgren and Smith, 2009) stated that the park is fortunate to have large areas that are relatively free of non-native invasive species. Proactive measures to identify and control spread of invasives are, however, critical to maintaining the high quality of this natural landscape. Edges adjacent to development, roads, trails, power lines and waterways are the most common avenues for many invasive species. Developing a plan specific to the park to identify priorities, tools, and weed prevention zones can help to prioritize actions, improve rapid response and allocate limited resources. An integrated plan for invasive species control in Allegany State Park will be prepared consistent with the approach developed by OPRHP (O'Brien and Cady-Sawyer 2008) to provide guidance for long-term management.

More detailed survey of invasives will be undertaken, including density and level of infestation of any invasive species. Smaller infestations will be addressed, particularly any areas that pose a threat to rare species. If larger restoration projects are needed, grant assistance may be available through a number of programs.

Invasive species management and preservation of Allegany State Park's natural resources is an integral part of the Master Plan. Implementation of the overall invasive species management element of the plan will focus on prevention, identification of invasives, early detection and rapid response, and eradication from sensitive habitat areas.

It is important to implement Best Management Practices (BMP) to minimize spread of invasive species. Practices such as proper material disposal and equipment cleaning methods limit the potential of invasives to establish in new locations within and beyond a site. DOT has developed useful BMPs for invasive plant control (DOT 2009) that can be tailored to agency or park-specific projects and operations.

The largest invasive species threat at Allegany State park is forest pests. The Emerald Ash Borer was discovered within 20 miles of the park in 2009 and other invasive forest pests such as the Asian Long-horned beetle and the Hemlock Woolley Adelgid have the potential to result in major damage to the forests if they are introduced into the park. Precautions such as surveying and monitoring at-risk trees will continue. Additional survey and monitoring for such species should be included as part of the invasive species strategy. An early detection plan for the Emerald Ash Borer has been implemented. Continuing to enforce firewood regulations and providing local sources of firewood to campers is important. An Emerald Ash Borer Beetle Prevention and Management Plan is currently being developed for Allegany State Park. This plan will address EAB and other potential forest pests. We also need to take care that any such undiscovered fauna is not moved beyond park borders.

Contractors removing wood products should be advised of firewood regulations and informed of sourcing and product labeling requirements. Educational information should be provided, including brochures, posters, bookmarks and other materials as available, for the business and for their use with customers.

New construction projects as well as day-to-day operations have the potential for spreading invasives. Park and regional environmental staff are very knowledgeable regarding the impacts of invasive species and ongoing interpretive programs and training will improve their ability to prevent the spread of invasives. In addition, all equipment, soils, straw and other construction materials used in Allegany State Park should be inspected to assure it is not transporting invasive species. Hay often contains weed seed or propagules. Possible measures to prevent spread of hay from the equestrian camping area should be identified and implemented if possible. The use of weed-free feed, hay, straw, and mulch should be promoted.

Incorporating the principles of Ecosystem-Based Management is the best approach to invasives species management. This includes consideration of an entire ecosystem and connections beyond the borders of Allegany State Park. OPRHP's invasive species program is based on the best available science, utilizing research on impacts of species and control methods. OPRHP will work closely with stakeholders, including the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) and volunteers, to monitor the extent and spread of invasive plants in the park, especially along the trails, and to identify and implement appropriate control measures where needed. Analysis of trails in the park included consideration of connections to trails outside the park.

Development of invasive species control plans needs to start with survey and monitoring to determine what is happening at a particular site and the best action to take. Successional old field management will need to take into consideration that species such as birds and butterflies may be utilizing invasive plants. On the other hand, infrequent mowing which often benefits grassland species could exacerbate spread of invasives in these fields and possibly into adjacent natural habitats. Generally, animals will derive greater benefit from native plants that they are adapted to, and invasive plants may not supply the best nutrients for species propagation and survival. Management and/or restoration would need to be planned carefully, evaluating the ecosystem, to minimize problems with invasive species while benefitting native species.

OPRHP will institute management of data on invasive species in Allegany State Park, consistent with the agency's invasive species program, to facilitate setting measurable objectives and tracking success of control projects through monitoring. Adaptive management is undertaken based on results of monitoring. Ongoing efforts on education regarding the impacts of invasive species and efforts that may be undertaken by patrons will continue, and be expanded as appropriate.

Historic and Archeological Resources

Historic Resources. The Master Plan will have no impacts on historic resources either listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as long as the recommendations contained in the 2009 Field Services Bureau letter of resolution (LOR) (Appendix H) are followed.

OPRHP's Field Services Bureau recommended that the following buildings contribute to the historic significance of the park: the Regional Administration Building, Red House Beach Bathhouse, Red House picnic shelter, Red House maintenance area log cabin, the Stone Tower, the Fire Towers, the sawmill equipment, the Quaker store museum, Fancher cabin, St. John's in the Woods, naturalist cabin, Quaker area shelter, two Quaker area houses, most of the older cabins, Group camps 5, 10 and 12, several buildings within the Regional Maintenance Center and the dams for the three lakes. The

LOR provided specific recommendations with respect to maintenance and rehabilitation of each of the above facilities. The Master Plan proposes to follow those recommendations.

Beneficial impacts to historic resources resulting from Master Plan implementation will include the preparation of a Historic Structures Report for the Administration Building, which will guide future rehabilitation projects and maintenance and repair of various structures following the FSB recommendations. The historic sawmill equipment will be available for group interpretive walks once the building and area are stabilized. Historic interpretation will be provided at the outdoor museum ruins across from the Administration Building, Little Ireland and the former site of the Allegany School of Natural History near Science Lake.

As new regional maintenance buildings are constructed in the area behind the current maintenance facility, the historic buildings currently being used for maintenance will be considered for other uses in consultation with the Field Services Bureau. If other uses cannot be identified right away, the buildings will be "mothballed" to preserve their historic character until other appropriate uses can be found.

Most of the cabins in the park are older than 50 years and add to the historic character of the park. However, many have serious structural problems or are in poor condition. The current direction has been to replace the most seriously compromised cabins to allow their continued use. The Field Services Bureau has indicated that new cabins recently constructed in the park are excellent replacements of the existing cabins, and retain the overall historic character of the park through appropriate material and design. The FSB has approved three cabin designs that can be used for replacement of park cabins. If one of these designs is used then no further review is needed and there will be no impacts to historic resources. Cabin replacements with designs other than those approved must undergo a review by the Field Services Bureau under Section 14.09 of the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.

Group Camps 5, 10 and 12 are contributing elements to the park. The final Master Plan calls for working with the Field Services Bureau to provide photo documentation of the camps, identify the one that is most representative for rehabilitation and repair, and repair or replace the remaining camps as necessary. The FSB will review the proposed plans for conversion of Camp 10 to an equestrian camping facility once the plans are developed.

Archeological Resources. The Cultural Resources Survey of Allegany State Park conducted by the New York State Museum (Costello, 1984) indicated that most of the park is sensitive for either precontact or historic era archeological resources. To assure that there are no adverse impacts, any project that could result in ground disturbance and potentially affect the cultural resources of the park will require consultation with the Field Services Bureau to determine if a site-specific archeological survey is needed. A list of the types of projects that will not require surveys (i.e. considered categorical exclusions) includes: general trail maintenance where no change in width, depth, vertical alignment, or drainage is to occur; repair of erosion issues where the repair work will not extend beyond the eroded area; removal of root balls from downed trees; culvert replacement in kind; removal of invasive species that does not entail grubbing or grading; mowing; repaving or regrading of roadways where no change in width, surface material, depth of roadbed, vertical alignment, or drainage is to occur; replacement or repair of facilities or utilities in the same location or trench; bridge repair or replacement involving the same abutment; and disturbance of previously disturbed areas where the previous disturbance can be documented through photos, plans, soil borings, etc. All other construction activities, including new trails or significant width expansion of undesignated trails will be reviewed by the FSB to determine if additional survey work is needed. Other Master Plan proposals that will require review include construction of the new Quaker Area bikeway, Red House premier entrance, visitor center, and new cottages.

Scenic Resources

Implementation of the Master Plan will not result in any significant adverse impacts on scenic resources in the park. The recommendations in the plan for Park Preservation Area designations and protection of the natural, historic and recreational resources will result in protection of the park's scenic resources. The plan proposes continued maintenance of existing roadside scenic vistas and restoration and interpretation of scenic vistas from the Stone Tower and Summit Fire Tower. A clearing plan will be developed to, over time, open up these designated scenic vistas and gradually restore the views. Native landscape buffers will be provided in some areas to enhance visual quality and to screen buildings and functions (such as maintenance areas) that are less visually appealing.

Recreation/Open Space

Implementation of the Master Plan will result in substantial beneficial recreation and open space impacts. The plan provides for a wide variety of new and improved recreation facilities and visitor amenities including a new park visitor center with an amphitheater in the Red House area, a new premier entrance that will provide visitor information and camper registration immediately as patrons enter the park, new cottages in the Red House area, a new bikeway in the Quaker Area, new picnic shelters and boating facilities and others. The trails planning process has resulted in a comprehensive assessment of the existing trails at the park as well as an opportunity for evaluation of new trail uses and routes. Implementation of the Trails Plan will result in a better organized trails system which will accommodate a variety of uses including hiking, biking, equestrian, skiing and snowmobiling. Trail plan implementation will also result in improved trail maintenance including drainage and an improved trail signage system. The proposed new trails provide new recreational opportunities, such as single-track mountain biking, offer loops of varying lengths for patrons of different abilities, and provide several new interpretive trails for environmental education.

Park Preservation Area designation will not result in adverse impacts to current recreation opportunities provided at the park. The areas of the park not designated Park Preservation Area will continue to support more intensive recreation activities such as campgrounds, cabins, group camps, picnic areas, bathing beaches and park and regional administrative facilities. All of the park's roads and designated and proposed new snowmobile trail corridors are also excluded from the Park Preservation Area designation. The Park Preservation area was carefully selected to accommodate recreational and operational needs while assuring the long term protection of the park's forested landscape and diverse plants and wildlife.

Transportation, Access and Traffic

Implementation of the Master Plan will not result in any significant adverse impacts on transportation or traffic. The plan proposes traffic and circulation improvements near the Regional administration building by creating a premier entrance at the Red House entrance where visitors will be able to get information about the park and register for their cabins and campsites. In addition, bicycle traffic along the road in the Quaker Area will be reduced by construction of a separate bikeway from the Quaker Beach and Cain Hollow Camping Areas to Science Lake. Additional pull off parking areas will be installed near trailheads and interpretive program gathering points to better serve park patrons. Staging areas with parking and amenities for equestrian and snowmobile users will also be provided in three locations. These proposals will facilitate improved traffic flow and safety in the park.

Public Health and Safety

Public health and safety are important elements in park operations. New or substantially rehabilitated facilities will be designed and constructed to meet all applicable health and safety codes including compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Design and rehabilitation of infrastructure systems such as electric, water, and sewer will ensure public health protection. Construction of a Class 1 bikeway in the Quaker Area will make this area much safer for families staying at cabins in the Quaker area or in the Cain Hollow Campground. Instead of sharing the roadway with cars, bicycles will have a safe paved path for travel to the beach, store, museum or Science Lake area.

Energy, Noise and odor

Energy efficiency and sustainability of the park was discussed in Chapter 6. Sustainability principles and energy efficiency will be incorporated into the design of all new park buildings, especially the new park visitor center. Master Plan implementation may result in some minor temporary increases in noise during construction.

Unavoidable Adverse Effects

The proposed Master Plan will result in some unavoidable adverse impacts. There will be some minimal permanent loss of pervious soil surface and vegetative cover as a result of construction of the new visitor center, amphitheater, premier entrance, maintenance areas, cottages, parking areas and trails. This will be monitored by park staff and action will be taken, if necessary, to prevent any significant impacts from occurring.

In addition to the impacts outlined above, there will also be temporary adverse air and noise impacts (e.g. fugitive dust, noise from construction equipment and vehicles, etc.) associated with construction of proposed improvements.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

The planning, development and implementation of this Master Plan including construction of a new visitor center, cottages and other new proposed facilities, infrastructure and trails has and will involve the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of public resources in the form of time, labor and materials. It will also require a commitment to the long-term operation and maintenance costs of the park.

Growth Inducement

Implementation of the Master Plan will result in some increased recreational use of the park. This increased recreational use will be carefully managed in an effort to support the vision and goals established to maintain the quality of the park's important natural, scenic and historic resources. There will be positive, on-going, economic impacts to the communities surrounding the park in the form of increased business to gas stations, restaurants and convenience stores. Tourism related expenditures for activities such as camping and day-use are a major element in the economic vitality of localities. Allegany State Park, with its significant natural resources and location near a major interstate and state and county roadways, helps to make this a reality.

Supplemental Environmental Review

Portions of this Final Master Plan/EIS are somewhat general or conceptual. Decisions regarding the type and extent of certain actions will be dependent on the findings from more specific studies or analysis still to be completed. For example, the equestrian camping facility at Group Camp 10 may require additional analysis such as a feasibility study and an archeological survey. The findings from these site specific evaluations may identify impacts that were not adequately addressed in this

plan/EIS. Under such a circumstance, an additional or supplemental environmental review will be required. As part of the agency's responsibility under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, OPRHP will review proposed implementation projects with respect to consistency with this plan and EIS. Projects found by OPRHP to be consistent with the plan can go forward without any additional review. Other types of proposals may require additional review ranging from completion of an environmental assessment form to perhaps a site specific environmental impact statement.

To assist in this consistency evaluation, the following types of actions have been identified as likely to require additional review under SEQR:

- Any new actions not addressed within the Master Plan that do not meet the Type II categories with Part 617, the rules and regulations implementing SEQR;
- Any change from the preferred alternative for recreational and facility elements of the plan which would result in significant environmental impacts;
- Any leases, easement, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between OPRHP and private entities or other agencies that affect resources in a manner that is not sufficiently addressed in this plan;
- Any proposals for new trails, trail segments or trail uses not addressed within the Trails Plan that is a part of this master plan;
- Any proposals by private sub-surface rights owners to access oil and gas resources under park lands.

Chapter 8 - Comments and Responses

Introduction

This section contains the responses to the comments received by OPRHP on the Draft Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Allegany State Park. The Draft Master Plan/DEIS was issued April 14, 2010. Two public hearings were held, one on May 12, 2010 at the Salamanca High School in Salamanca, New York and a second on May 13 at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library in Buffalo, New York. The comment period ended on May 28, 2010.

During the Public Hearings 41 people spoke and their comments were recorded. During the comment period for the Draft Master Plan/DEIS, the Agency received 16 written comment letters. A list of persons providing comments is included at the end of this chapter.

The types of comments received included editing suggestions, requests for clarification of information presented in the document, and comments related to specific aspects of the plan. All comments were reviewed and organized by categories. Responses to these comments are found in this section and were considered in the revisions found in this Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

OPRHP appreciates the time and effort that persons interested in the future of Allegany State Park have invested in their review and comments on the Draft Master Plan/DIES and their participation in the public hearing.

Response to Comments

This section is organized by category. Following each category heading, there is a summary of the comments received. Following each summarized comment is the Agency's response.

Equestrian

Comment – Horse trailers and cost of riding:

Horse camp sites weren't large enough to accommodate enough trailers.
The cost can be more than anyone wants to pay for a week or a weekend of riding.

Response:

New equestrian camping facilities and staging areas will be designed to meet the needs of trailers. Cost of equestrian camping is the same as general camping at non-electrified sites.

Comment – Equestrian Camping:

Is electric being considered for the new camp area? Many people would stay longer if there were electric and water hook-ups.

Response:

Electric hookups will be included in the full service campsites in the new equestrian camping area.

Comment – Large rig accommodation:

If there are any parking space considerations for large rigs, it would be nice to create one large, level stone parking area where large rigs can maneuver easily.

Response:

Accommodation for this type of vehicle will be included in the design phase.

Bicycles and Horses

Comment – Bicycles and horses on trails:

Considerable concern was expressed about the addition of bicycles to two equestrian trails. First, the section of Horse Camp - Parkside Drive Trail between the equestrian camping area and Ridge Run, and secondly, Ridge Run Trail to Thunder Rocks (these were formerly identified as horse trails #1 and #2.) Bicycles are seen to pose a problem in that they travel fast and a horse doesn't have enough time to react except in a fearful way which can pose a problem and danger for the horse and rider. It was requested to designate these trails as equestrian only.

Other commenters felt that trails should allow multiple uses as is done in other areas of the state and country.

Response:

OPRHP has carefully considered shared use of trails by mountain bikers and equestrians. OPRHP staff members have researched information on shared use of trails by bicyclists and equestrians and found that such uses have been compatible in most instances. It is noted that the trails in question at Allegany are in close proximity to the proposed equestrian center and are also presently two of the most popular equestrian trails in the park. As a result, OPRHP is not proposing shared use on these trails at this time. However, the regional trails committee will work with the various trail organizations to improve coordination and an understanding of their individual trail needs, concerns, etc. This will also provide the opportunity to promote the concept of shared use trails and associated trail ethics. As a result, additional shared use trails may be considered in the future.

Oil, Gas and Minerals (OGM)

Comment – Drilling:

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation should prevent (or at least limit) gas drilling in the park.

Response:

Oil/Gas resource development in the park will follow the “OPRHP Policy On The Development of Oil and Gas Resources.” This policy states that no state owned oil and gas resources will be developed, extracted or offered for lease. The policy also discusses OPRHP’s permitting and environmental review protocol relating to proven privately owned subsurface mineral rights. . The policy is available on OPRHP’s website: http://www.nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx

Comment – Purchase of mineral rights:

Mineral rights in this park should be purchased by the State in order to protect the integrity and character of this precious parcel of land.

Response:

The plan does state that purchasing mineral rights in the park from willing sellers is a desirable objective. The 2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan also recognizes these acquisitions as part of the State Park and State Historic Site Protection (priority project #132).

Comment – Rights of sub-surface owners:

When families deeded land to the ASP in the early part of the 1900s they wanted to keep the oil and gas rights that had been so valuable in the nearby oil fields. Their reservations and exceptions are clearly stated in the deeds to the ASP and they were agreed upon by both the grantors and the grantees. These deeds cannot be changed by the new plan.

Response:

The question of title to, ownership of and right to extract subsurface and surface resources on any parcel within the legislated boundary of Allegany State Park is addressed in the "OPRHP Policy On The Development of Oil and Gas Resources." Ownership of these resources are determined on a case by case basis following established title searches and other legal means. OPRHP recognizes that subsurface mineral rights may be privately owned and, if such is the case, the State of New York cannot acquire such rights without just compensation.

The OPRHP policy clearly outlines the need for a permit from OPRHP when private entities desire to access proven privately owned mineral rights.

Comment – Regulation of oil drilling:

If commercial logging and state development of oil and gas resources is banned in the park, does that mean the State can log and the privates can drill? Can regulating applications mean that should the climate (and personnel) change in Albany that those in charge of regulating will have a loophole to allow destructive tapping of our natural resources.

Response:

The plan states that tree and vegetation management will follow the OPRHP statewide policy on tree management. This policy prohibits commercial logging in state parks by any entity. The plan also states that the OPRHP statewide policy on the development of oil and gas resources will be followed. This policy includes a permit process for private entities wishing to use privately owned sub-surface mineral rights. The policy and associated permits require from private entities proof of ownership of rights to subsurface minerals. The State also reviews such documentation for validation purposes. Both of these policies can be seen on OPRHP's website at **http://www.nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx**.

Any substantive changes to policy are subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act. Changes which may result in significant adverse impacts to the natural and cultural resources of Allegany State Park would be subject to an Environmental Impact Statement.

Comment – Implementation of sub-surface rights purchase:

It was commented that although the plan states that opportunities to purchase privately-owned rights will be evaluated this does not appear on the priority list or in the implementation part of the Master Plan.

Response:

Purchase of privately owned sub-surface mineral rights within Allegany State Park has been and will continue to be, an ongoing objective rather than a new program to be implemented. Purchase of these rights is consistent with Priority Project #132 of the 2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan and is contingent on the presence of willing sellers.

Comment – Mitigate disturbances:

Privately held subsurface interests must be proven beyond doubt before the ensuing steps of application, biological surveys, and SEQRA be taken. In the event that all preceding steps are satisfactorily completed and reviewed, surface disturbances must be minimized, and provisions to remediate and mitigate such disturbances should be thoroughly addressed and strictly enforced.

Response:

Comments noted are very much consistent with the OPRHP policy on oil, gas and minerals.

Boating

Comment – New boat rental on Quaker Lake:

Concern was expressed with the Priority 3 goal of developing a boat rental facility near the Quaker Lake beach. This lake has breathtaking views, and is large enough that many people can spread out and fish from the shore or on the lake without having to bump into other fishermen. With the addition of many people on rented boats this would change. Red House lake already offers a boat rental facility, and this provides people a location to rent a boat for the day and enjoy being out on the water. Please reconsider this Priority 3 goal and instead consider keeping this sort of activity on Red House lake.

Response:

The boating experience on Quaker Lake is different from the boating experience on Red House Lake. A new rental facility will allow more people access to this experience. The lake is large enough (275 acres) to accommodate a modest number of additional boats without causing any degradation of the fishing, boating, or scenic viewing experience.

Comment – New car-top boat launch on Quaker Lake:

Concern was expressed about the new boat launch on Quaker Lake. The southern end of the lake is currently quiet and serene. Many people park here to fish and enjoy the area. There is already a perfectly usable boat launch on the other end of the lake with parking available. It was expressed that this is not a necessary addition and would take away from the beauty of the lake.

Concern was also expressed that motor boats would impact the enjoyment of kayaks and canoes.

Response:

The plan calls for a small car top boat launch facility on the south end of the lake. This will provide easy access for the campers and cabin users. The size and layout of the facility will be determined in the design phase of this project and will not result in a significant increase in the number of boaters using the lake.

The new boat launch is intended for car top boats only. Most of these boats are non-motorized. Where motorized boats are concerned, only electric motors are permitted on Quaker Lake.

Designations

Comment – Designations and OGM:

The new master plan will designate Allegany State Park as: "Natural Heritage Area," "Bird Conservation Area" and 85% of it as "Park Preserve." Park Preserve status offers Allegany the same "Forever Wild" protection as the Old Growth Forest in Zoar Valley and the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks. Park Preserve Status will make it possible for the State to reject oil or gas exploration proposals on environmental grounds.

Response:

Natural Heritage Area, Bird Conservation Area and Park Preservation Area designations for Allegany State Park highlight the importance of natural, historic and cultural resources in the park. They call for the conservation of these resources through education and science. However, these designations are not made under Article 14 of the State Constitution commonly known as the Forever Wild provision. Article 14 designations pertain to the New York State Forest Preserve in the Catskills and the Adirondacks. This master plan for Allegany State Park makes no attempt at comparison to Article 14 designation or land use provisions associated with the forest preserve. Designations within Allegany State Park are related to Environmental Conservation Law regarding Bird Conservation Areas, and Natural Heritage Areas; and Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation Law Article 20 (Appendix J). Article 20 identifies designations as Park Preserves or Park Preservation Areas. The areas within Allegany State Park are designated as Park Preservation Areas.

Comment – Designations and forests:

Designation of the park as Bird Conservation Area, Natural Heritage Area, and Park Preservation Area will contribute greatly to the preservation of its irreplaceable forest resources.

Response:

OPRHP agrees. These designations help to highlight the importance and conservation of these resources within the park.

Comment – NFG Gas storage area:

It is sad that National Fuel's 9000-acre gas storage area above France Brook will not be included in the Preserve.

Response:

Only the service roads and well sites are not included in the Park Preservation Area. More than 90% of the gas storage area is included in the Park Preservation Area.

Comment – Implementation of designations:

These designations involve little change to current operations but can increase the stature of the park, help attract additional visitors, and engender public appreciation and pride. To emphasize their high priority, the plan should specifically state that these actions will be undertaken immediately once it is approved.

Response:

The designations are officially in place upon the adoption of the plan by the Commissioner.

Comment – Designation adoption:

I strongly urge you to please adopt the proposed Park Preservation Areas, Bird Conservation Area, and Natural Heritage Area designations in the final Master Plan. Our parks are vital to our area and need to be preserved.

Response:

See response above.

Comment – Trail connections:

Concern was expressed about the Park Preservation Area designation as it would relate to future trail development within the park. The County is promoting non-motorized mobility as a means to a more healthy community. Interconnection of trail systems between the park and the County is a long-term goal that would help us achieve a more physically active population.

Response:

Non-motorized trails are compatible with Park Preservation Areas. Future development of non-motorized trails, within and outside Park Preservation Areas will be considered on a case by case basis.

Comment – Restrictions of designation:

The new "Park Preserve" designation has restrictive implications in regards to gas and oil rights development; however, it also does not seem well defined or defined in enough detail. The public is owed a listing of the positive and negative implications and a full review of what some of the possible unintended consequences for the general public's access might be.

Response:

The plan recommends that approximately 83% of the park be designated a Park Preservation Area. This designation is different from the Park Preserve designation which would apply to the entire park. The Park Preservation Area is defined in section 20 of Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law which is included in the plan (Appendix J). The implications of the designation are also well defined in the plan in Chapter 6, page 84.

Trail Plan

Comment – Maintenance:

Although equestrian trail riding is growing in popularity in our area, the concern is the amount of maintenance that will have to be provided for this many miles of trail and the degradation to seeps, ephemeral and running streams. With the addition of expanded horse camping and trailer turn-arounds, the number of horses utilizing these trails will increase significantly adding to the amount of maintenance required to prevent environmental issues.

Response:

The plan calls for partnerships with user groups to assist park staff in maintenance of trails. Few new miles of trail are proposed in this plan; most are designations of trails that are now used unofficially. The ASP trail committee will review maintenance issues on an ongoing basis and work with trail groups to resolve concerns. Where sensitive natural resources are impacted by the trails, relocations may be required.

Comment – Trail surface:

Concern was expressed about the section where the plan describes the acceptable surfaces for horse trails. The plan says the rocks should be no larger than footballs. A trail made of rocks slightly smaller than footballs wouldn't be acceptable for horses or anyone else.

Response:

The description you refer to is a description of soil conditions. The specification is that any soil comprising the surface of an equestrian trail should have no component of rocks larger than football size, not that the surface should be composed of those rocks.

Comment – Too many trails:

Additional trail designation has been more generous than may be desirable for the maintenance of a contiguous forest. Too much bicycle, horse, snowmobile and foot traffic through the deep woods makes the woods less hospitable to creatures that need them.

Response:

The plan is providing a diversity of trail opportunities while continuing to maintain several large road less areas. The plan also calls for monitoring of impacts and adaptive management if necessary in the future to provide a balance between recreation and resource protection.

Comment – More trails than can be maintained:

This over supply of trail mileage, particularly in light of the difficulty of maintaining existing trails, may not be necessary for the enjoyment of the park.

Response:

Partnerships with trail user groups for design and maintenance, as recommended in this plan, will ease the maintenance burden on park staff and provide for better maintained trails.

Comment – Open more trails to bikes:

Disagreement was expressed with proposed restrictions of bikes on existing trails and access roads. All of the snowmobile trails and horse trails, especially in the Rice Brook/Mt. Irvine area, should be open to bicycles.

Response:

The plan provides a wide diversity of trail experiences for the various trail users. The ASP trail committee will work with the various trail organizations to improve coordination and an understanding of their individual trail needs, concerns, etc. This will also provide the opportunity to promote the concept of shared use trails and associated trail ethics. As a result additional shared use trails may be considered in the future.

Comment – Regional external trail connections:

The plan includes a reference to connecting the park to the Genesee Valley Greenway. This suggestion should be given much greater priority. A connection between Allegany State Park and the Genesee Valley Greenway via Olean would create a large continuous recreational system from Rochester to Letchworth State Park, Allegany State Park, and Allegheny National Forest. A multi-use trail link to Pennsylvania that would connect to Pennsylvania's Pine Creek Trail would also help attract tourism from outside of New York State. At a Woodlawn Beach meeting in 2008 NYS OPRHP presented strategic linkages between State Parks for viability and economic development. Yet this Master Plan does not express an urgency or process for that implementation.

Response:

One of the goals stated in the trails plan is promoting connections to external trail systems. This is also a priority project of the *2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan.* The trails plan makes several suggestions regarding connections between the park and external trail systems. All are considered potentially desirable and depend on funding and availability of personnel to proceed. The agency has a strong connectivity initiative and proposed linkages to other natural and/or recreation areas will be considered. Additional connections that come to light in the future will be considered as well.

Linkage points to trails and trail systems outside the park are illustrated in Appendix B, The Trails Plan in Figures 5, 8 and 9.

Comment – Local links outside the park:

This Master Plan does not appear to address linkages and cooperation with agencies and enterprises outside the park. There does not seem an urgency or emphasis on working with Cattaraugus County, adjacent communities, Pennsylvania or the Allegany National Forest. An equestrian trail connection is needed to the Pat McGee Rail/Trail to provide greater access for equestrians to the cities of Salamanca and Little Valley. This is extremely important for the economic sustainability of Allegany State Park, tourism, and the area's communities/businesses.

Response:

OPRHP recognizes the importance of trails and trails systems to recreation and tourism within areas adjacent to the park and beyond. Proposed additional linkages of the trail systems within the park to recognized and officially adopted trail systems outside the park certainly will be considered by park officials. Local communities and trail advocacy organizations are good partners to help OPRHP achieve these objectives. (See also response to comment above regarding which maps illustrate these linkages.)

Comment – Volunteer trail partners:

If State funds disappear over the next few years, it is hoped that the park will continue to move forward with parts of the plan; in particular the trail building. OPRHP should immediately commit to convening a trail support group on a regular basis, develop agreements, work plans and a training program for trail stewards; and fully involve representatives of all groups in the decision making needed to operate, maintain and improve the park's trail system. Trail groups with professionally trained and experienced personnel are ready and willing to build trails in conjunction with park staff and the plan set forth.

Response:

OPRHP is committed to encouraging partnerships in all aspects of trail design, layout, construction and management The trails plan states that user organizations will be included where feasible.

Comment – Trail implementation priorities:

Although the plan carefully examines two or three alternatives for multiple trail-related goals, no implementation priorities are outlined for the actions that it recommends. Also, none of the actions from the trails plan are included in Table One Implementation Priorities found in the main Master Plan document.

Response:

The trail plan has been added to the implementation tables in the Executive Summary (page 21) and Chapter 6 (page 97). Trail plan actions have been prioritized in the Trails Plan implementation section (page 29 of Appendix B).

Comment – Width of bikeways:

Two trails, the new Quaker Area and the rehabilitated Red House bikeways, are both recommended for a width of 6 to 8 feet, yet part or all of these trails are to be paved and allow in–line skating. In-line skating requires a wider trail of 10 to 12 feet width to reduce the likelihood of user conflict.

Response:

There are some areas in the Red House bikeway corridor where physical site conditions limit the width. The Quaker bikeway width will be 10 feet. Various portions of the Trails Plan have been changed to indicate that inline skating will not be allowed on the Red House bikeway due to these limitations.

Comment – Snowmobile trails:

In protecting the open space of Allegany State Park assurances must be evident that the historical use of snowmobiles in the park are allowed to continue along the corridors established by the park. In addition, there needs to be recognition of future snowmobile trail locations within the park that would especially allow for important trail connections of trails within the park and for connections to trails located outside the park.

Response:

The Trails Plan designates specific trails for snowmobile use in the park and suggests points where trail connections can be made outside the park (see Appendix B, Figures 5, 8 and 9). These snowmobile trails are excluded from the Park Preservation Area and will continue along the corridors identified within the plan and as described in the plan on page 85 and in Figure 11.

Comment – Roads in southeast portion of the park:

Concern was expressed that bicycles will no longer be allowed to use the old roads in the southeast portion of the park. Although mountain bikers are primarily interested in singletrack, these "old road" trails should be open to bicycles.

Response:

The ASP trail committee in consultation with the various trail organizations will discuss and evaluate shared uses in the southeastern portion of the park to improve coordination and an understanding of their individual trail needs, concerns, etc. This will also provide the opportunity to promote the concept of shared use trails and associated trail ethics. As a result additional shared use trails may be considered in the future.

Comment – Single track trail construction:

Support was expressed for allowing the building of new single track trails in Allegheny State Park with the assistance of qualified user groups.

Response:

OPRHP, the region and the park will be working with trail-qualified partners to implement the trail plan. The partners will include user groups with experience in single track design, construction and maintenance.

Comment – Separate and equal trails:

The proposed run to Thunder Rocks is probably the single most controversial multi-use designation. Can the topography enable both a horse and a Mountain Biking route separately, with at least 100-yard buffer?

Response:

There is no plan to create a parallel trail in this section of the park. Access to Thunder Rocks by bicycle is available from Thunder Rocks Road. The thunder rock area and trails in the vicinity will be one of several areas to be discussed and addressed by the ASP trail committee.

Comment – Trail signage:

Equestrian trails are not marked well. There is a short segment where both hikers and equestrians (snowmobiles in season) must share an old road uphill. There is nothing on site to discourage equestrians from following the hiking path at the split. It is strongly requested that a strongly worded sign be placed at the junction to discourage horse riders from turning down the hiking path. On site signage at the junction would help, as would the park's clear declaration that hiking trails are single use.

Response:

Signage such as this type is consistent with the goals of the trails plan and will be considered. The plan recommends improving the trail signage utilizing the guidelines in "Trail Signage Guidelines for the New York State Park System." These guidelines can be found on the OPRHP website at http://www.nysparks.com/recreation/trails.

Comment – Re-route Cain Hollow bike trail:

In order to provide a start and end point it is important to have the Cain Hollow trail extend to the Stony Brook overlook on ASP 1. This route would use a new section along a more sustainable grade. As proposed, the trail may not be attractive to cyclists and would be more difficult to garner volunteer hours that will be required to build it.

Response:

There is general agreement with this comment as per adding a destination, however, the preferred destination of the Cain Hollow bike/hiking trail system is Bay State road. This change has been made on Appendix B – Trails Plan –Figure 4.

Comment – Bikes on road to Ridge Trail:

There is a problem with mountain bikers using that steep roadway to the Ridge Trail. Horses coming out of camp have to stop numerous times going up the trail and coming down the trail. A bicycle is a serious safety hazard to any rider. Therefore, the proposal that bicycles be allowed on the road leading up and down the hill to the Ridge Trail from the Equestrian Trailhead is protested. In fact, signs should go up immediately showing that bicycles are prohibited.

Response:

Bikes will not be allowed on these trails at this time. The concept of shared use trails and associated trail ethics will be addressed through the recommendations of the regional trail committee and trail user groups.

Trees

Comment – Blow downs:

Blow downs, if harvested, would give the state revenue to maintain the park and do everything that this master plan has in it. Ash, Oaks and Maples need to be harvested properly so that our park's woods continue to grow and be enjoyed for many years to come.

Response:

The tree and vegetation management (including trees downed by natural causes) at Allegany State Park will follow OPRHP policy. This policy is available at the OPRHP website: **http://www.nyspark.com/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx**

Comment – Private timber rights:

In many cases, landowners reserved certain groups of standing trees in the forest that they could harvest at any time and many of us may well do that in the future.

Response:

The agency recognizes the issue of surface and subsurface rights that may have been retained. Determining legal ownership of specific surface resources will be done on a case by case basis through title searches and in cooperation with those who claim ownership of such rights.

New Cottages

Comment – Against new cottages on Bova Road:

Concern was expressed over the establishment of a new loop of cottages within the Bova Ski Area near Camp Allegany for several reasons. 1. The Bova Ski Area contains a rich history and has cultural significance as the beginning of the "ski area" in Cattaraugus County 2. Camp Allegany serves as an opportunity for large groups to enjoy the naturalness of the park. Construction of cottages will degrade the naturalness and the future experiences patrons of Camp Allegany will receive. 3. Many cabins have been removed along existing loops within Red House.

Response:

There are no new cottages proposed for the Bova Ski Area. The new cottage loop is along Bova Road in a wooded area between Camp Allegany and the Bova Ski Area. (See figure 12) There will be no interference with the historical significance of the ski area or with the operation of Camp Allegany or the experience of those attending. The number of cabins in Red House has remained fairly consistent over the years. Although some cabins have been removed, others have been built to take their place. The new facilities are full service cottages which provide an entirely different experience than the historic cabins. The alternative analysis is shown in Appendix A of this document.

Comment – Location of new cottages:

In regards to the Bova area development. The map does not indicate exactly where on Bova Road the cottages would be built. It also does not include a discussion on the impact to Camp Allegany facilities, the historic ski slope or the rich wildlife area.

Response:

Figure 12 in Chapter 6 of the plan illustrates the area planned for the new cottages on Bova Road. The new cottage loops do not impinge on either Camp Allegany or the historic ski slope. Other impacts and mitigations are discussed in Chapter 7.

Nature Center

Comment – Funding, staffing, mitigation:

A new nature center would be built at Bee Hunter. How will this facility be funded and staffed? The environmental impacts from the building of this facility can not be justified unless the facility is adequately funded to realize the benefits of environmental education.

Response:

The implementation of the plan is set in priorities that will only be accomplished when appropriate funding is in place. This funding may come from either the private or public sector, or a combination of both sources. Environmental impacts from this facility are minimal in that it is placed in an already disturbed area which is highly utilized, yet close enough to environmental education opportunities.

SEQRA

Comment – Chapter 5 inadequate:

Chapter 5 is a single page and the explanation of alternatives and the analysis is insufficient. SEQR requires a consideration of the no-action alternative. That was the only alternative considered and no quantitative data was provided. The section was found to be difficult to read and understand. It basically says the preferred alternative was chosen based on a matrix with no justification on the basis of the matrix (is the matrix even appropriate use in this decision making process) and that the Master Plan is a compilation of alternatives. It is felt that the detail is insufficient to justify the potential impacts of the Master Plan.

Response:

In order to reduce the size of the Master Plan document itself, the extensive “Analysis and Alternatives Considered” section was moved to Appendix A. Appendix A provides a thorough analysis of alternatives for natural resource protection strategies, recreation resource development and infrastructure development. Each element discussion includes a section on Background for analysis, a discussion of alternatives with a listing of considerations for each of the alternatives, and a preferred alternative. Chapter 5 in conjunction with Appendix A provides sufficient analysis to justify the potential impacts of the Master Plan. Some modifications have been made to the language in Chapter 5 to make it clearer that details on the alternatives discussions are found within Appendix A. Appendix A has also been modified to further illustrate the Master Plan alternatives.

Comment – Chapter 7 questions:

Chapter 7 provides a discussion on the alternatives with regards to impacts. In Chapter 3-Environmental Setting, stream water quality is cited as an issue needing to be addressed under the Master Plan. Chapter 7 says that the Status Quo (No Action Alternative) would result in no adverse environmental impacts. If nothing was done to address water quality, wouldn't that be an adverse environmental impact? What would happen to the sensitive ecosystems slated to be managed under the Master Plan? Besides some calculations of impacts to ecological communities, there is no quantitative data on impacts.

Response:

The discussion of impacts of not providing a Master plan for the park is conceptual. Water quality impacts of existing operation would continue to be addressed on a case by case basis and through the agency's water quality monitoring program, and compliance with state laws and regulations with respect to stream protection and erosion control and stormwater prevention. As stated in Chapter 7, resources would continue to be protected through the normal processes of SEQR review of actions and compliance with all applicable state and federal environmental regulations. Under the status quo scenario, however, streams and other park resources would not have the added protections of the designations proposed within the Master Plan. The absence of the improved water quality provisions under the status quo alternative could be viewed as an adverse impact.

The Master Plan/EIS is conceptual in many instances thus provision of more detailed data on environmental impacts will be conducted during the more detailed design process. As part of its responsibility under SEQR, the Agency will review all proposed implementation projects with respect to consistency with this plan and EIS. Projects will be evaluated to determine if any additional environmental review is required as discussed on pages 128-129.

Comment – Greenhouse gas:

The DEIS lacks a discussion on greenhouse gas emissions. SEQR guidelines require a discussion.

Response:

The Master Plan includes sustainability goals (p. 79) including design of new buildings to current LEED standards where possible, as well as retrofitting existing buildings to reduce energy consumption. Page 98 – 99 of the plan includes a section on Sustainability and measures the agency will encourage or implement where appropriate. These include use of renewable energy sources, heating and cooling improvements to decrease the use of energy, use of green building design principles, methods and materials for new construction and rehabilitation, and continuation of the mowing reduction program to reduce fuel consumption. In addition, Chapter 7 contains sections on impacts to Air, and Energy, Noise and Odor. Potential impacts of master plan implementation on increasing green house gases will be minimal. 83% (or 53,360 acres of the park will be designated a Park Preservation area allowing only passive forms of recreation. Preservation of this vast area of forest will result in increased carbon sequestration which will more than offset any minor increases in greenhouse gases produced at the park.

Environmental Impacts and Wildlife

Comment – Wetlands:

The plan does not discuss if any wetlands will be impacted by the proposed improvements or actions under the Master Plan. Have any formal wetland delineations been conducted to determine the location of wetlands? Have impacts to wetlands been considered when siting facilities as they are not addressed in the alternatives analysis?

Response:

Impacts to designated wetlands are discussed on page 118. Locations of proposed new facilities in the Master Plan were carefully chosen to avoid impacts to important resources such as wetlands. Site specific location and design of trails and other facilities will also seek to avoid wetlands and wetland buffers. Wetland delineations will be conducted in conjunction with site-specific design where needed. In addition, consultation with DEC and the US Army Corps of Engineers will occur where appropriate.

Comment – Trails in forested areas:

Regarding the new trails that are planned through forested areas, has there been consideration to the design of the trails to prevent forest fragmentation for interior-dwelling wildlife, particularly many song bird species, and to prevent creation of a corridor for brown headed cowbird and other invasive species from entering the forest? Typically trails less than 5 feet wide will prevent brown headed cowbird from entering. Will trails be limited in width? Will any other design considerations be implemented to lessen impacts?

Response:

Minimizing the impacts of forest fragmentation was an important consideration in trails planning. Most new trail development was limited to areas of the park already impacted by roads and trails with a goal of preserving several large intact core forest areas. See the discussion on pp. 122-124 in Chapter 7 under Animals. Most hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails will be limited to six feet wide during construction and in most cases, the completed trails will be narrower (typical single track trailway is 18-24”). Chapter 7 of the plan states that each proposed project, including trails, will be assessed during the design phase for impacts to the park’s natural resources, including rare and endangered species.

Comment – Water quality impacts:

The Draft Plan contains proposals that may have temporary localized negative impacts on water quality. However, the overall impact of Plan implementation is to reduce negative impacts of park activities on water quality. Water quality monitoring programs are especially important to document existing surface and groundwater conditions. Developing such baseline data for water quality could prove especially helpful in establishing linkages to the impacts of oil and gas development as activity near or within the park advances.

Response:

OPRHP concurs. The plan includes measures to mitigate local, temporary impacts from construction activities. Additionally, the choice of siting of new facilities was accomplished with the idea of minimizing these impacts both during and after construction. Water quality monitoring and establishing baseline conditions is part of the plan.

Comment – Drilling and air quality:

In the air quality section (pg 118-119), we would add the potential negative effect that gas drilling would have. Both the drilling process itself and all of the truckloads of chemicals, water and waste products create air pollution. We have read estimates of up to 8,095 truckloads of materials being transported per well; unlike your own park vehicles, you will not be able to easily "assure that the vehicles are in good running condition and are not producing excessive exhaust.

Response:

The impacts of drilling are assessed by a separate environmental review as part of the permit process identified within the agency's oil, gas and minerals policy.

Comment – Trapping:

Currently the park does not allow any recreational fur trapping or bear hunting yet beaver and bear invoke numerous nuisance problems every year and recreational trapping and hunting are the Department's primary means of managing these species. Instead, DEC is forced to issue nuisance permits so park staff can remove problem beaver, and under this authorization, park staff destroy numerous beaver every year. We recommend that the park allow trapping within its boundaries during legal trapping seasons.

Response:

OPRHP does not consider trapping to be a recreational opportunity in state parks. Trapping of individual specific animals is done only as part of nuisance animal control measures.

Comment – Bear hunting:

Black bear nuisance problems are extraordinarily well documented in this park, and the park serves as a source of problematic bear activity and increasing bear population outside the park. Recreational hunting of bears could and should be part of the park's bear management plan. We recommend that the park permit bear hunting consistent with current New York Hunting and Trapping regulations. Another alternative, although not our preference, would be to consider a more controlled, limited bear harvest. Bear harvest objectives can be achieved through various methods of controlling hunting pressure and allowable take.

Response:

Black Bear are an important species within Allegany State Park for patrons and are a featured environmental education resource. Black bear sightings are an important part of the visitor experience. Black bear activities have been problematic in the past, however, and the park has undertaken a significant three part program including patron education of not feeding wildlife, prompt cleanup of garbage and food sources, and more stringent enforcement of no-feeding rules. OPRHP has also worked closely with DEC staff in the design of facilities to minimize bear access to garbage and refuse.

Comment – Reduction of nuisance bear complaints:

The plan should document the current commitment to and success of efforts to educate park patrons about nuisance bears and bear safety. Park staff has made a large commitment to infrastructure (electrified transfer stations) and education in cabin loops areas. Imposition of fines on patrons caught feeding bears has reduced the number of nuisance bear complaints received on cabin trails. This is a big success equally as effective as installing electric fencing at their refuse facilities. We would hope that the plan would acknowledge this.

Response:

Substantial progress in reduction of black bear nuisance complaints has been made through the implementation of the park environmental education program, refuse and garbage management and no-feeding rules enforcement. The success of these efforts stand as evidence of the importance of education, well-designed facilities and enforcement in wildlife and people management.

Comment – Value of deer hunting in the park:

It is apparent that the plan does not place much value on the long-standing tradition of hunting in the park. The plan should recognize that hunting opportunities in the park relate directly to fall cabin rentals and other potential revenue generation and economic benefits both in the park and the surrounding community.

Response:

The reference in Chapter 6 on page 93 expresses OPRHP's commitment to preserve and maintain the hunting opportunities now existing at Allegany State Park. Hunting has been a long and valued tradition at Allegany State Park since its creation. As the commenter indicates, hunting also contributes to revenue generation and economic benefits to the surrounding community.

Comment – Deer population management:

DEC has deer management objectives for the park, as set in consultation with a Citizen Task Force in 2000, which are not being met. The deer population has not rebounded despite conservative issuance of deer management permits (DMPs). Habitat conditions will not support deer populations at the current objective, and the objective may warrant revision in the absence of habitat management that would support higher deer populations. Alternatively, the agency could explore habitat management options in those portions of the park where habitat is subject to and already in active manipulation.

Response:

Deer hunting has been a traditional use of the park and this important recreation will continue. The agency has a policy that calls for natural processes and natural succession to govern the development of forest ecosystems. An important element of that policy is the protection of biodiversity including understory trees, shrubs, and herbaceous species such as wildflowers. High deer populations often adversely impact natural succession processes by eliminating these species. The agency views sportsmen and women as important partners in helping the agency manage deer population levels.

According to the Natural Heritage Program biodiversity report (Lundgren et. al, 2010), the majority of the forest in Allegany State Park is currently in excellent condition with good regeneration and structure. These forests are some of the highest quality forest in the state and are recognized as Significant Natural Communities in the Natural Heritage database (2010), a partnership program with DEC. Some areas in the park, however, do exhibit signs of high deer densities and over browsing. The NHP report recommended that continued deer hunting may help to reduce browse levels, restore tree regeneration and forest structure in these areas and maintain current good conditions throughout the rest of the park.

The agency will continue to actively participate in deer management planning within Allegany State Park including working closely with DEC and in conjunction with Citizen Task Force efforts. Consistent with the agency's policy on vegetation management, however, the agency will not be initiating active forest management to enhance deer population levels. The agency will continue to seek a balance between deer population levels, recreation opportunity and biodiversity protection and enhancement.

Comment – Open fields management:

Some of the open fields would benefit by re-planting with a blend of legumes and cool and warm season grasses. We agree with the plan that mowing of the open fields should be timed to occur when nesting of grasslands birds is complete.

Response:

The plan states that open fields will be mowed on a rotational basis and timed to occur after grassland birds have nested. No other management is contemplated by OPRHP at this time.

Comment – List of park fauna:

The list of park fauna omits deer and small game species.

Response:

White Tailed Deer, cottontail, grouse and other small game are listed in Appendix D – Flora and Fauna. For instance White Tailed Deer is listed on page 3.

Comment – Wildlife resources:

Pg. 88, Wildlife Resources section states that current policies are effective and will continue but does not describe the current policies or measures of effectiveness.

Response:

State Parks, through an integrated approach, manages wildlife on lands and waters under its jurisdiction to: (1) protect the health and safety of park staff and patrons, (2) protect species at risk, and protect and enhance biodiversity, and (3) prevent damage to park buildings or infrastructure. Habitat management in support of wildlife populations and biodiversity will be based on goals that lead to the appropriate functioning of park ecosystems. Management activities will be conducted in consultation with the OPRHP regional office, the Environmental Management Bureau in OPRHP, and staff in various units in the Department of Environmental Conservation. In addition, State Parks partners with the DEC and the Natural Heritage program to identify and monitor populations and occurrences of endangered, threatened and other species at risk within state park facilities. In the case of federally endangered and threatened species and migratory birds, the USFWS will also be consulted.

One important policy that has bearing on habitat and in turn on wildlife is the vegetation management policy which can be found on the agency's website at http://www.nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx.

Comment – Alternatives to wildlife section:

[Appendix A] pg. 22 - #9 Wildlife, only lists one alternative: status quo. Other alternatives that could be considered include: Enhance habitat for small game and early succession wildlife with active management; Manage bear population by regulated hunting following DEC regulated seasons, or through tailored approaches for the park; Manage the beaver population with regulated trapping following DEC regulated seasons, or through tailored approaches for the park.

Response:

The current situation at Allegany State Park with respect to wildlife management and patron recreation and experience is considered to be satisfactory. The alternatives identified relate to active habitat manipulation for recreational hunting and providing hunting for black bear and trapping for beaver. None of these alternatives is deemed consistent with agency's overall mission and the goals for the park at this time. OPRHP does, however, recognize the important contributions that sportsmen and women make to wildlife management at the park currently and remain open to continuing the positive working relationship of the agency with the professional staff of DEC

Comment – Hunting alternatives:

[Appendix A] Pg. 44 #13 Hunting; Change this section to "Hunting and Trapping." Add to alternatives: Allow bear hunting and fur trapping; Allow the use of rifles and handguns for big game hunting – both implements are currently allowed in Cattaraugus County; Allow Sunday hunting for big game.

Response:

These comments are noted. Since trapping is not a recognized recreational activity in State Parks the section is appropriately titled "Hunting." Sunday hunting was considered to be inappropriate at this park. Bear hunting is not considered appropriate at Allegany State Park at this time.

Comment – Sunday hunting:

Hunting should be allowed in the Wolf Run area on Sunday during the youth hunt. It makes no economic sense to release the birds then not allow hunting during the two day youth hunt. Wolf Run is not in the paid entrance part of the park so a special rule could be in effect for Sunday hunting.

Response:

The Wolf Run area is part of the legislated area of Allegany State Park and is subject to the same rules and regulations as the rest of the park. The plan continues the no Sunday hunting restriction in the entire park that is in place at the present time.

Comment – Rare and endangered species:

[Appendix A] Pg 23 - #10 Rare and Endangered species only lists one alternative: status quo. Consider adding: Work with NYSDEC and USFWS to actively manage populations of and habitats for rare, threatened and endangered species in the park. Work with DEC to manage populations of and habitat for species of greatest conservation need in the park.

Response:

OPRHP has a strong partnership with the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) and draws considerable direction from NHP biologists. In addition the agency works closely with the staff of DEC and federal agency resource agencies such as the USFWS. The agency is very much aware of the statewide wildlife plan and the concept of species of greatest conservation need. Information in that plan is taken into consideration in matters pertaining to wildlife management.

Fisheries

Comment – Wording correction:

In Chapter 3 (p. 40), there is a sentence that should read "…streams in the park are home to native brook trout and the park contains the highest concentration of wild brook trout streams completely in public ownership in **Western** New York State…"

Response:

Correction has been made.

Comment – Brown trout stocking:

In Chapter 3 (p.45), there are two sentences that state "Modest populations of native brook trout still inhabit most of the forest-covered streams in the park. Streams generally receive trout stockings twice a year". The way it is written, it implies that the native brook trout are there because they are stocked twice a year. Brook trout are in these streams through their own natural reproduction. The only stream we currently stock with brook trout in the park is Red House Brook, downstream of the lake, where no wild brook trout exist. Brown trout are stocked in five larger park streams. Brown trout are also stocked in the three park lakes.

Response:

Corrections have been made to this wording.

Comment – Lake fisheries:

On p.40 in Chapter 3 (section on park lakes), there is no mention of the fisheries resources or angler use in these lakes. My report, done in conjunction with park staff in 2008, estimated there were at least 22,500 angler trips on both these lakes combined (Cornett 2009). Considerable additional information on fish populations in Quaker Lake is also available in the Quaker Lake Fishery Management Plan (Cornett 2008). Both of these reports should have been available at the park's headquarters, but are also included with this letter. In Chapter 6 "Natural Resource Protection" (p.86-88), management of wild brook trout is covered and it is suggested that sections on "stream fish stocking" and "lake fishery management" would be beneficial as these important fishery management issues are not covered in any detail in the draft plan.

Response:

Changes have been made to Chapter 3, page 40 to include information on angling and fishery management. Habitat improvement has been added to Chapter 6 page 87. Additional information on fisheries has been added to Appendix A page 46.

Comment – Beavers:

Concern was expressed over the abundant beaver populations in the park with no controls or natural predators to keep them in check. Trapping of beavers and removal of dams was recommended for the benefit of native brook trout populations and to reduce the negative impacts of sediment loads and increased water temperature on park streams.

Response:

Beaver are a common species that is widespread in Allegany State Park, inhabiting many of the park's major drainages. Beaver are a natural part of the park ecosystem and provide an important function by creating a diversity of wetland and stream habitats that support other animals and plants. Beaver and their dams and lodges are also a major attraction for park visitors. Beaver's propensity for impounding streams can also lead to flooding in undesirable areas and impacts to park infrastructure and other park resources. As discussed within the Master Plan, beaver and their dams will be removed when they are impacting park roads or other infrastructure. In addition, should another stream reach be selected for Native Brook trout habitat improvement similar to the McIntosh Brook project, beaver and dams would be removed from that stream reach.

Comment – Delayed harvest:

In the section of Appendix "A" covering fishing in the park (p.46), I applaud the idea of improving fishing access to the park's lakes and I would also suggest that a full study of the delayed harvest angling regulation on Quaker Run may be beneficial to determine if it is effective in increasing angler catch and satisfaction. DEC Region 9 Fisheries is planning to conduct more intensive angler studies on the park lakes and stocked streams in coming years and this might give the opportunity for evaluating the delayed harvest regulation.

Response:

The desire to fully study delayed harvest regulations is supported by OPRHP.

Comment – Lake habitat improvement:

One issue that was not addressed in the draft plan is habitat improvement in the park lakes, particularly Quaker Lake. Red House Lake presently has aquatic vegetation beds that provide a fair amount of fish habitat, but Quaker Lake is nearly devoid of this type of habitat. It is likely that an aggressive program of adding habitat (trees or other structures) could improve the warm water fishery in this lake (Cornett 2008b). This work could be partly accomplished in conjunction with lake dredging activities proposed in the draft plan (Chapter 7, p.116).

Response:

Habitat Improvement for fish in Quaker Lake was a component of the Quaker Lake Cleaning and inlet restoration project conducted in 1999. The project included construction of structures in the Lake to improve fish habitat and recreational opportunities for fishermen as well as the placement of 3 V-shaped rock bed sills in Quaker Run to improve the streambed habitat. We agree that similar improvements should be discussed in conjunction with any future lake dredging projects.

Implementation

Comment – Cost estimates:

Concern that the state's financial difficulties and its impact on funding for state parks operations and capital projects will seriously impair the ability of agency personnel to ever even modestly implement this high quality plan. The plan's Table of Implementation Priorities assigns three levels of priority for recommended actions, but no cost estimates accompany these actions and none of the actions recommended in the trails plan are included in this table. At a minimum the actions proposed to be undertaken in the next one to three years (including trails-related actions) should be listed along with estimated implementation costs.

Response:

The Implementation Table provides a general prioritization of the various actions proposed in the plan. The actual implementation of an action will depend on available funding. Since there is no definite time when this would occur, cost estimates may not reflect the actual costs at the time when implementation occurs.

Sustainability

Comment – Practices at the park:

OPRHP and its contractors and concessionaires are encouraged to place a high priority on sustainable practices that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, and limit the use of toxic chemicals and pesticides. We also support green building design and the use of native plants in any new construction or rehabilitation. These actions will not only conserve natural resources but also can educate the public regarding the value of such actions.

Response:

The plan states on page 25 that OPRHP is committed to sustainability principles. Sustainability has been considered at every step in the development of this master plan and will be included during implementation.

General

Comment – Develop partnerships:

Especially when government funding is so limited, it is important to support the development of partnerships with businesses and civic organizations and the formation of park friends groups to not only raise funds but also work with park personnel to take on some of the tasks outlined in the plan and to promote park-related tourism.

Response:

The plan includes goals for partnerships in Chapter 4, page 78.

Comment – Wolf Run bridge:

Bridge replacement on Wolf Run should be included in the plan.

Response:

The Wolf Run culvert will be replaced according to the general plan for culverts and bridges in the park, which is an ongoing infrastructure improvement.

Comment – Scenic vistas:

Scenic vistas have always been an attraction within the park. Through the years, the growth of trees has made some of these vista areas obsolete. We feel that these historic vista areas are a unique component to the park experience and should be identified and restored.

Response:

The plan calls for the identification, restoration and maintenance of scenic vistas in the park.

Comment – Little Ireland:

The historically significant Little Ireland settlement on the eastern boundary of the park should be preserved, protected, and interpreted as a valuable historic resource.

Response:

Little Ireland is identified in the Letter of Resolution (Appendix H, Item 12, pg 3) as a contributing element that is archaeological in nature which should be interpreted and protected. The plan states that OPRHP will follow the recommendations of the Letter of Resolution.

Comment – Backpack camping in Wolf Run area:

Providing the opportunity to access the remote areas of Wolf Run for backpack camping is supported. Some concerns exist relative to visitors unknowingly transporting undesirable/invasive species to this area on their trek in, but recognition is made of the value in having places to visit that are wild and inspiring. Continued education and vigilance relative to invasive species recognition and control will be required for successful implementation of this back country camping provision in the plan. It is extremely important that this area not see any additional development.

Response:

Comments noted. Aside from the backpack camping, the plan does not propose any development in the Wolf Run area. Hiker education about carrying in invasives is important and will be included in the Invasive Species Plan.

Comment – Accessibility:

Concern was expressed for more accessibility for seniors and handicapped.

Response:

The plan does call for including accessibility in new construction and wherever possible in renovations in accordance with ADA standards and agency policy.

Comment – Pesticides and plant disturbance:

It is hoped that there will be less pesticide use as well as less disturbance of the plant life when cottages, cabins, or bike paths (paved) are built.

Response:

The plan states that the park will follow the guidelines of the OPRHP sustainability plan. This plan does call for the reduction in pesticide use. In addition, the agency has a pesticide use policy in place that calls for pesticide free operations except under situations identified within the policy. The agency will adhere to the pesticide policy directive which may be viewed on the OPRHP website at http://www.nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx.

The plan also states that vegetation disturbance will be minimized at construction sites in the park.

Comment – Recreational needs assessment:

The recreational needs assessment is based on a survey of summer patrons only, and therefore fails to sample hunters (and other users) who use the park during the spring turkey season (month of May) or in fall hunting seasons. Tables 2 and 4, Lists of Users and Needs, omit hunting and trapping.

Response:

Recreational needs in the plan are taken directly from the 2009 SCORP (OPRHP, 2009) which is based on a statewide user survey covering 12 months. Table 4 was taken directly from this source and contains only information that is available in this document. Table 2 was based on a user survey conducted in the summer of 2009 and deals only with origin of park patrons. It has no information about recreational needs.

Persons / Organizations Who Provided Comments

Name		Title	Organization
Abers	Crystal J.	Director	Cattaraugus County Department of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism
Anderson	Benjamin		Red House
Anonymous (5)		General Public	
Barton	Debbie	General Public	
Barton	Gary	General Public	
Beahan	Larry	Secretary	Adirondack Mountain Club Niagara Frontier Chapter
Beals	Allison	Director of Government Relations	Adirondack Mountain Club
Bishop	Paul	Senior Planner	Cattaraugus County Economic Development, Planning & Tourism
Bratt	Amy	General Public	
Brautigam	Andrew	General Public	
Carlson	Melissa	General Public	
Collins	Susan	General Public	
Cooper-Szymczak	Connie	General Public	
Cornett	Scott	Fisheries Biologist	New York State DEC Region 9
Couture	Charles W.	Chairman	Cattaraugus County Planning Board
Cox	Pamela	General Public	
Cunningham	Barb	President	Western Chapter – New York Horse Council
Curren	Heide	General Public	
Donohue	Amanda	General Public	
Dressel	Mary	General Public	
Driscoll	Robert	General Public	
DuBois	Lisa	General Public	

Dzirkalis	Pete	Owner	Just Riding Along Bike Shop
Eger	Susan	General Public	
Feuz	Richard M.	Representing	Historical Society
Fleming	Mike	General Public	
Gibson	Ellen	General Public/Member	Adirondack Mountain Club
Gilewicz	John	Representing	Adirondack Mountain Club
Gomlak	David	Conservation Committee Chair	Niagara Frontier Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club
Gorski	Roxann	General Public	
Gotcsik	Fran	Director of Programs and Policy	Parks & Trails New York
Harbod	Mike	General Public	
Hart	William	Chairman	Genesee River Wilds Project
Hartell	Sherry	General Public	
Hayes	Kirk	President	Cattaraugus Snowmobile Federation
Hendricks	Linda	President	Twin Tier Trail Riders
Ingram	Joelle	Public Lands Advocate	Adirondack Mountain Club
Jaremko	William	General Public	
Knittel	Arlene	General Public	
Laubacker	Ann	Representing	Last Chance Riders (Horse Riding Club)
Lawrence	Mark	General Public	
LeFeber	Rick	Executive Director	Cattaraugus LDC
Leising	Leah	Representing	NYS Horse Council
Less	David	General Public	
Lightcap	Richard J.	General Public	
Little	James	Representing	Cattaraugus County Horsemen Association
Lustig	Karen	General Public	
Manring	Margaret	General Public	
Manzone	Matt	General Public	
Marko	Paul	General Public	

Marsh-Gardner	Angela	General Public	
McGlew	Patrick	Director	The Nature Conservancy, Niagara Frontier Project
McNall	Mary	General Public	
Merrett	Tracey	General Public	
Miller	Scott	General Public	WNYMBA
Moscato	Jonathan	Chairman	Friends of Hunters Creek
Neff	Jerrine	General Public	
Orwat	Brian	General Public	
Parana	John	General Public	
Paterniti	James	General Public	WNYMBA
Perkins	Dave	Executive Director	New York State Snowmobile Association
Pfohl	Robert	Western Vice President	NYS Horse Council
Pfohl	Elaine	General Public	
Pleszewski	Carla	General Public	
Potter	D. Scott	Director	WNY National Mountain Bike Patrol
Rauscher	Barbara	Director	Western Chapter – New York State Horse Council
Rehfeld-Kenney	Lynn		Adirondack Mountain Club
Riehle	Bob	Representing	Equine Community
Riehle	Ruthe	Secretary	Cattaraugus County Equine Advisory Committee
Riexinger	Patricia	Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Rohring	Tom	Representing	WNYMBA
Rohring	Sue	Representing	WNYMBA
Rozler	Susan	General Public	
Schmelz	Carol	Equestrian Delegate	NYS Trails Council
Shaikun	Glenn	General Public	
Sheffer	Susan M.	General Public	

Smith	Wade	Trails Committee	Short Hills Cycling Club
Smith	Brian	WNY Program Director	Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Smith	Ainsley	General Public	
Stultz	Cindy	General Public	
Sundquist	Jon	Trails Chairman	WNY Mountain Bicycling Association
Szabo	Irene	Finger Lakes Trail Conference and North Country Trail Association volunteer speaking for the	Finger Lakes Trail Conference Board of managers.
Toner	Judy	General Public	
Uttech	Charles and Mary	General Public	
Weber	Veronica	President	Cattaraugus/Chautauqua Chapter New York State Horse Council
Weber	Veronica	President	Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Chapter NYS Horse Council
Webster	Suzanne	General Public	
Weinert	Anne	General Public	
Widger	Annie	General Public	
Woodworth	Neil	Executive Director	Adirondack Mountain Club
Wopperer	Jay	Member	Adirondack Mountain Club – Niagara Frontier Chapter
Wright	Thom	General Public	
Yager	Judy	Representing	New York State Horse Council
Young	Dr. Frederick J.	General Public	
Zurek	JoAnn R.	General Public	

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Figure 1 Vicinity

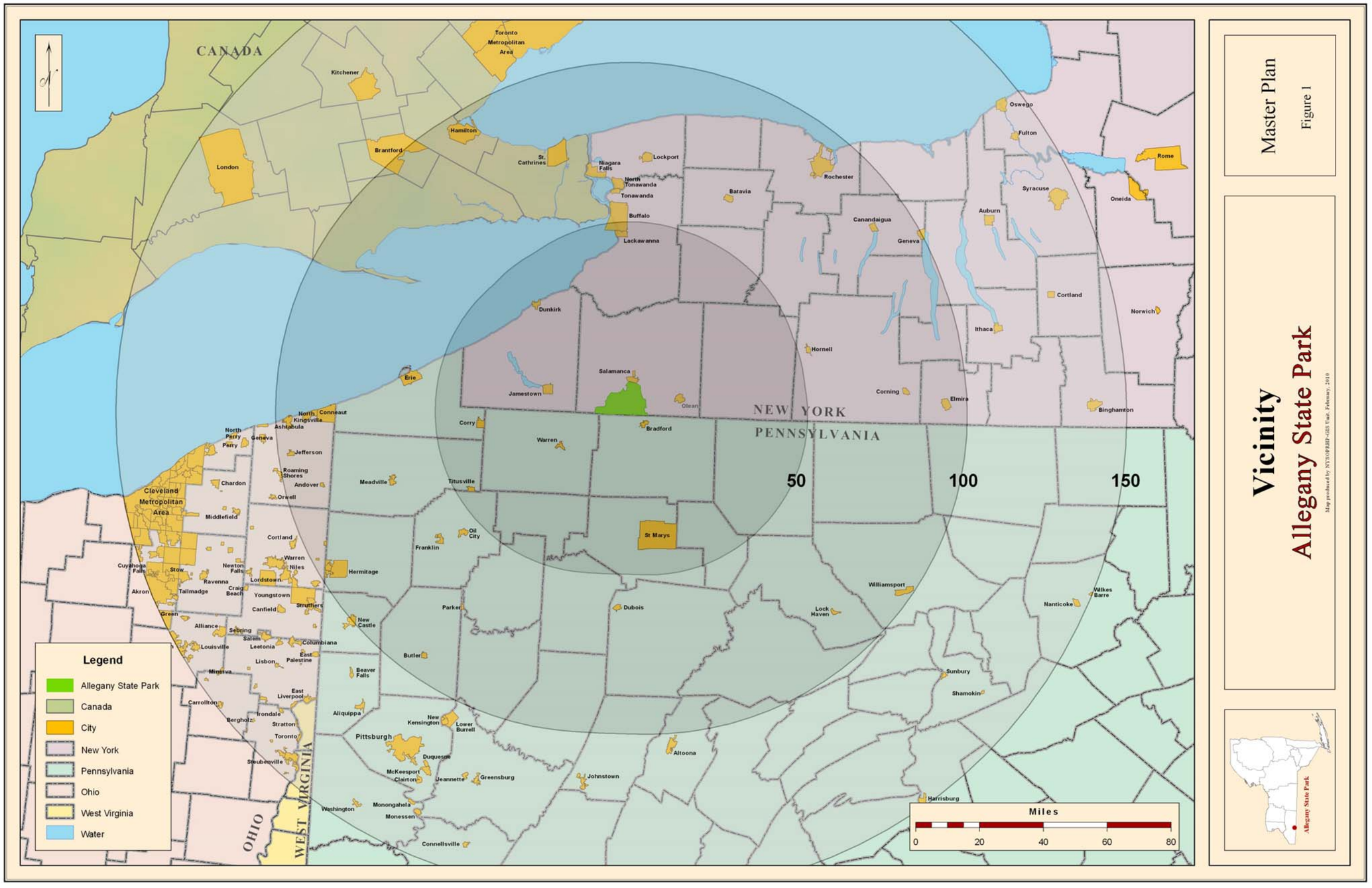


Figure 2 Park Boundary

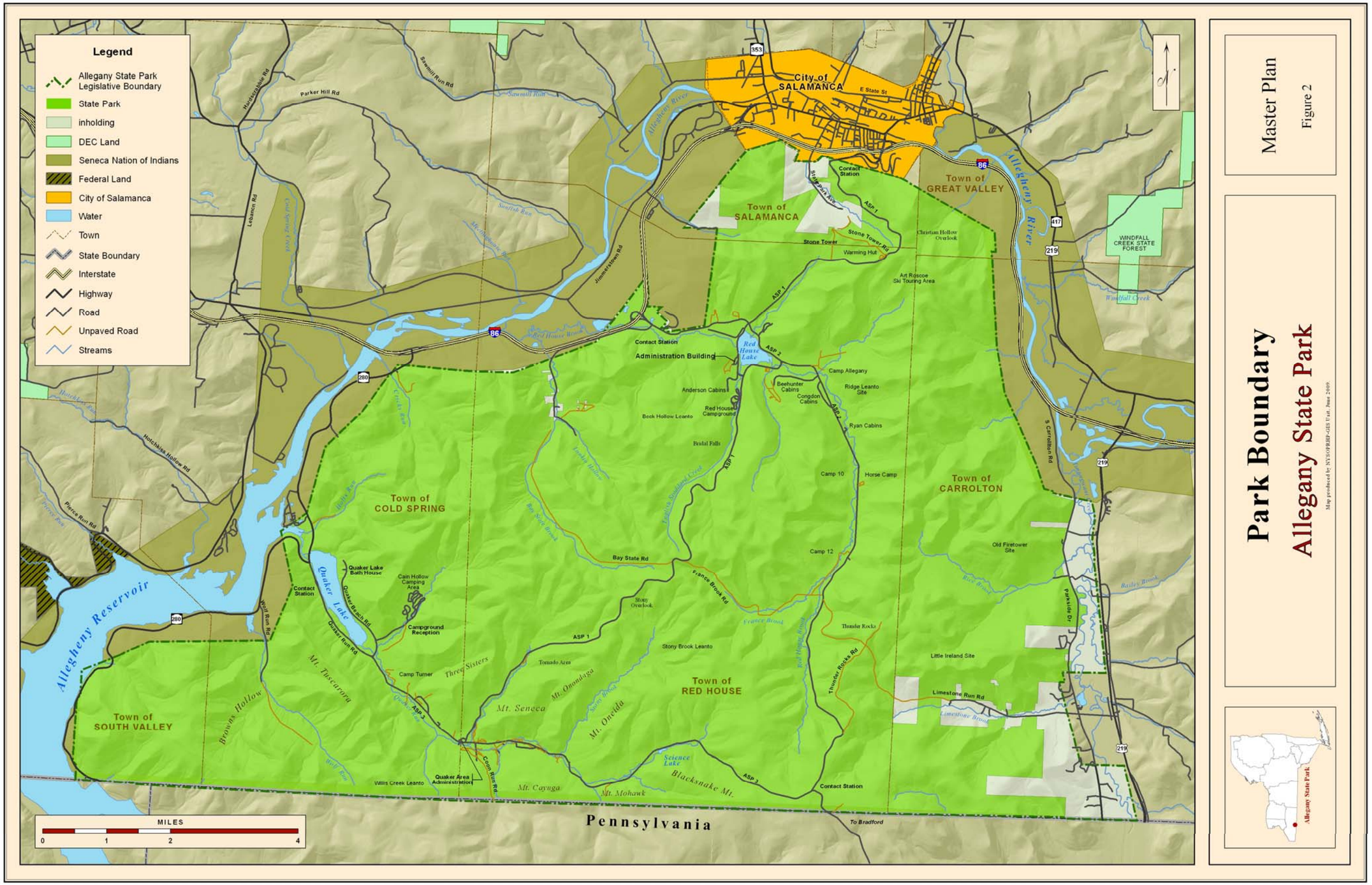


Figure 3 Geology

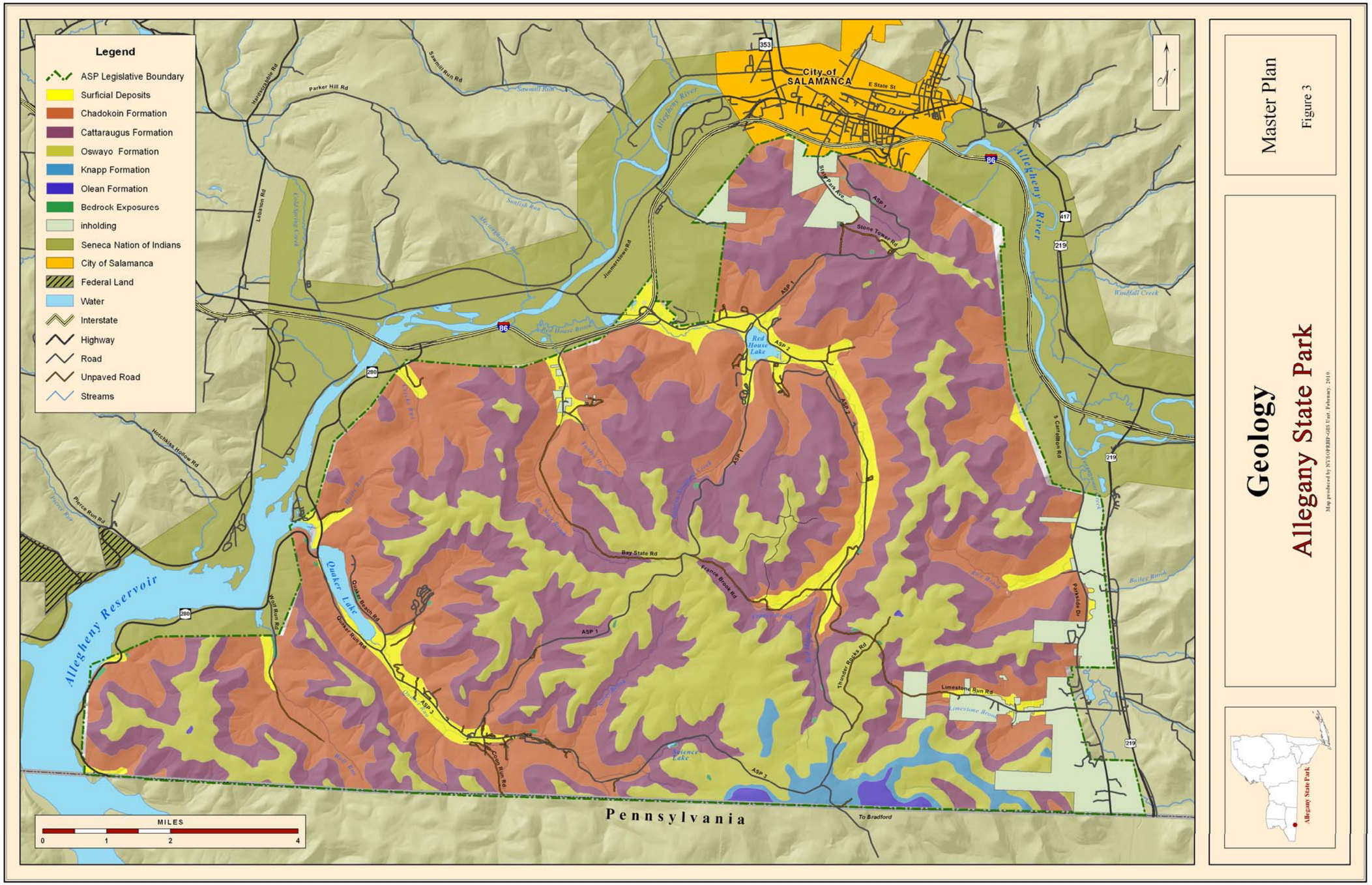


Figure 4 Topography

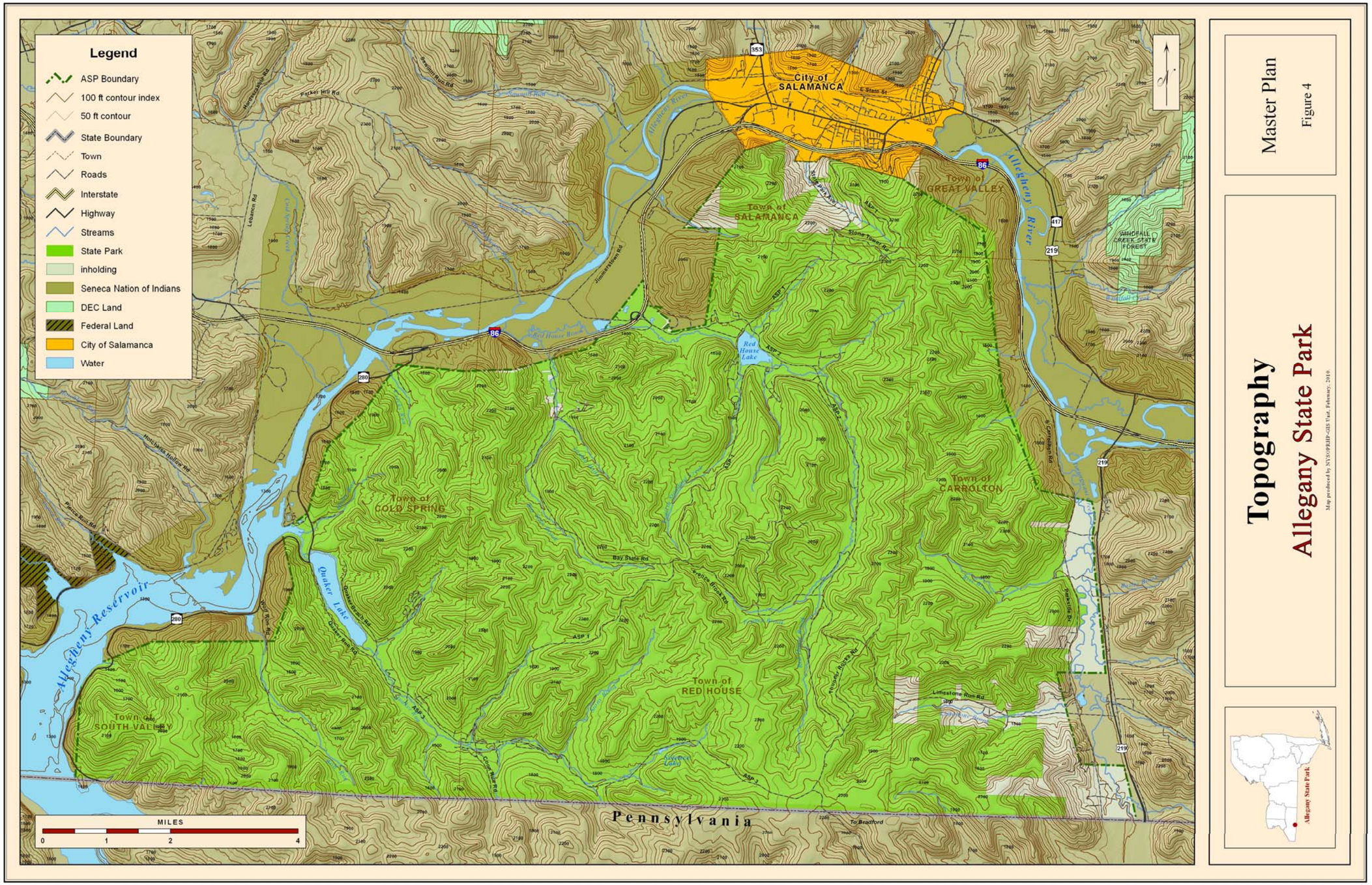


Figure 5 Slope Analysis

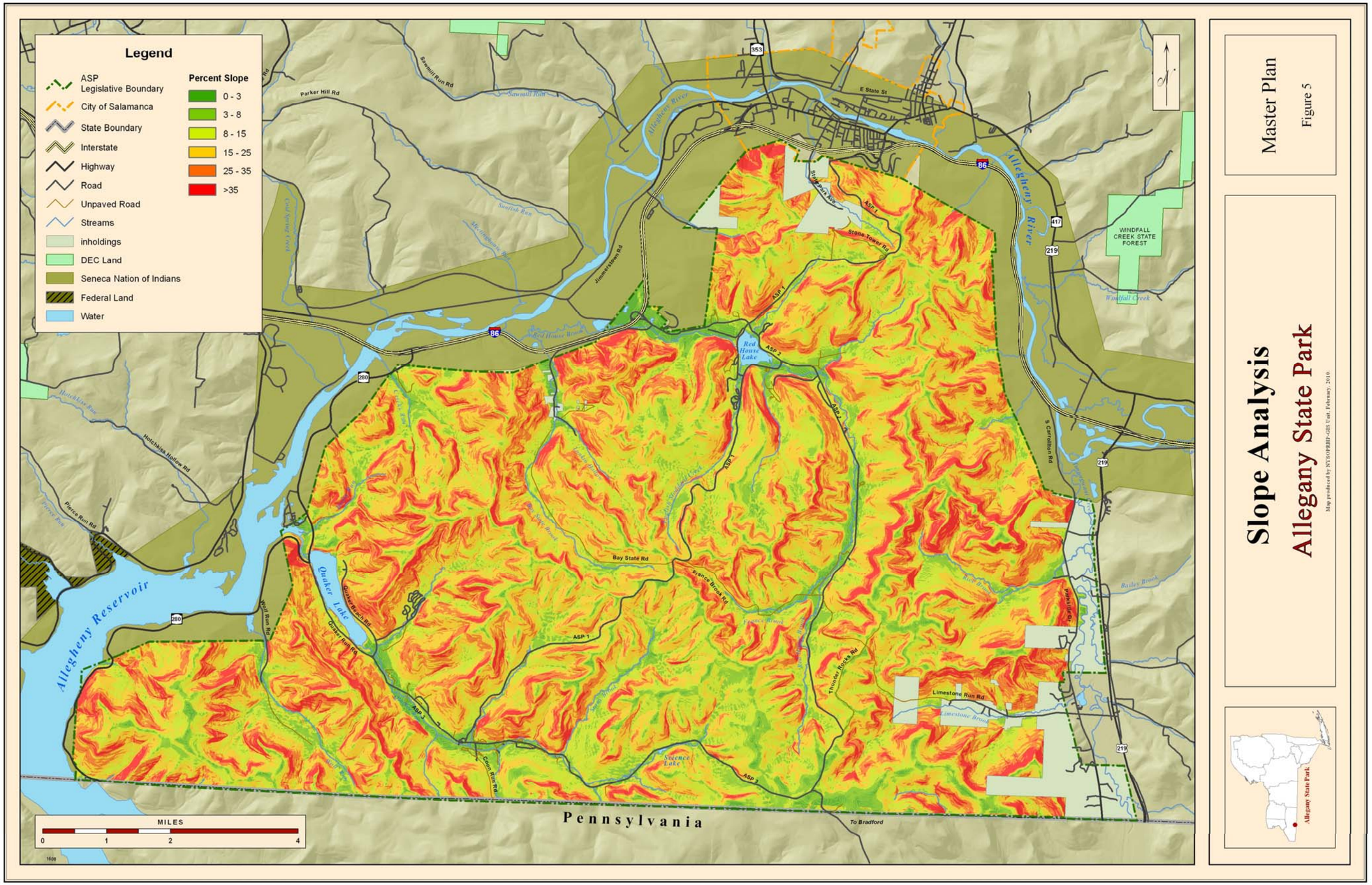


Figure 6 Soil Erodability

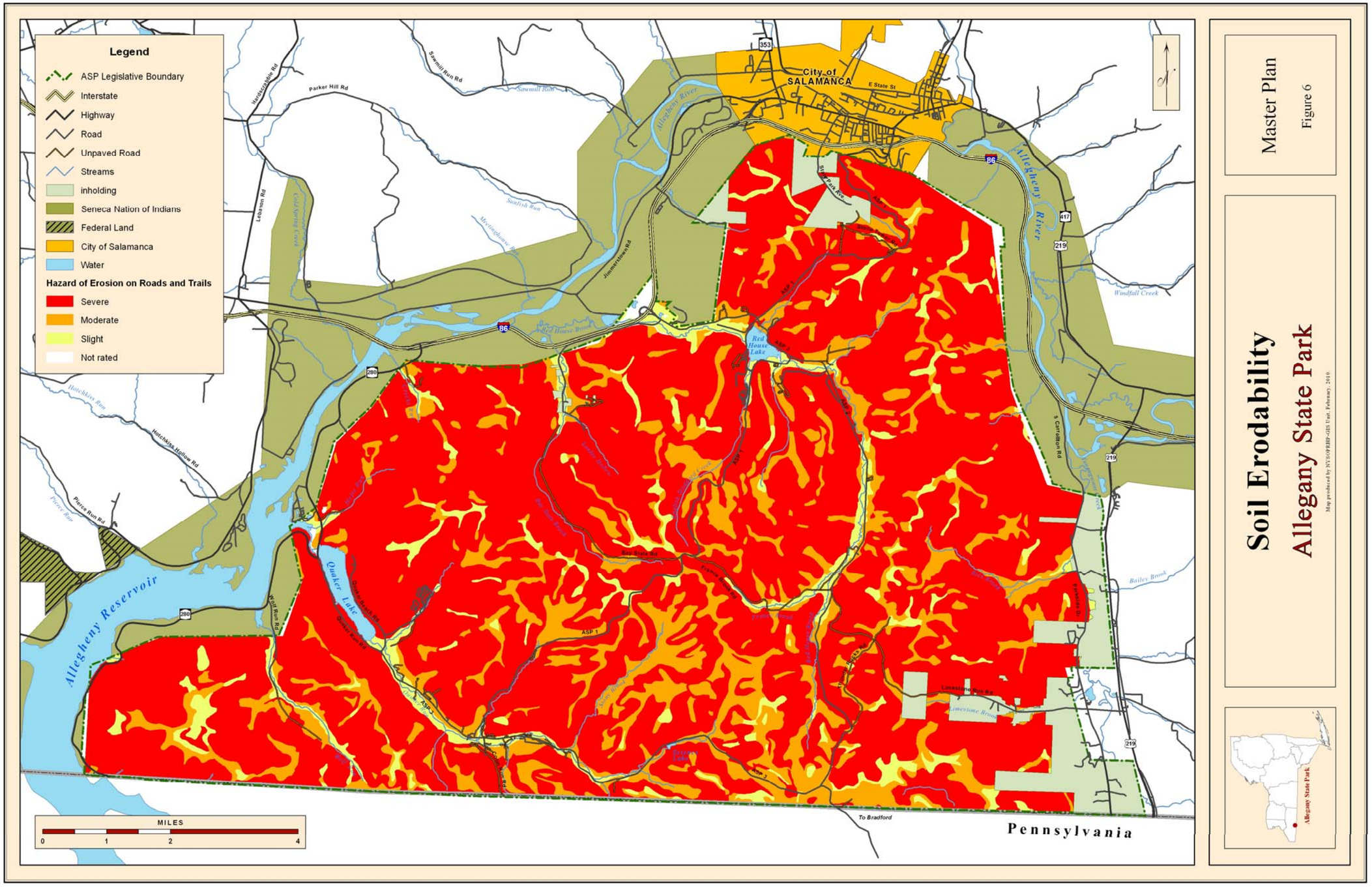


Figure 7 Watersheds

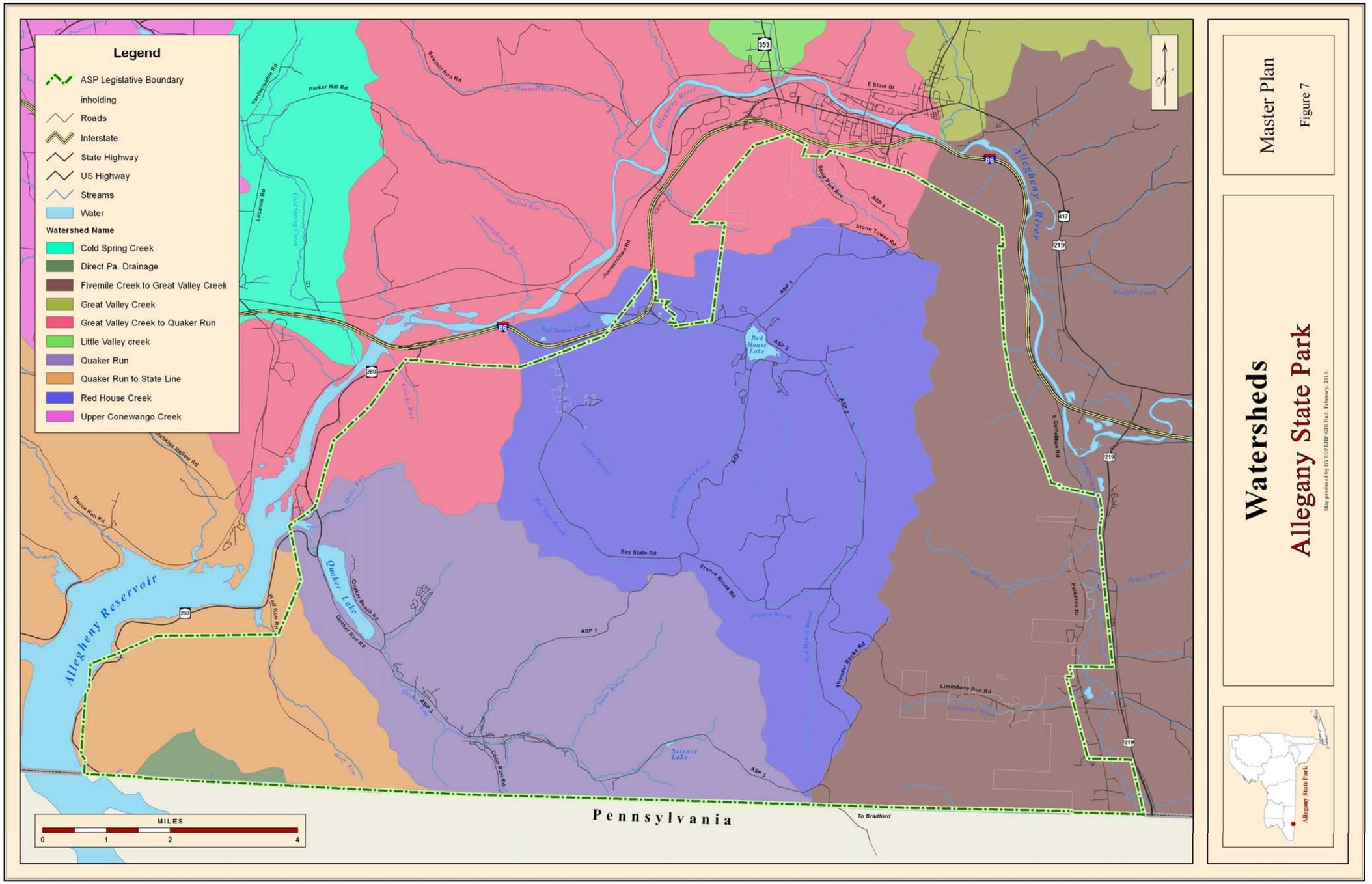


Figure 8 Wetlands

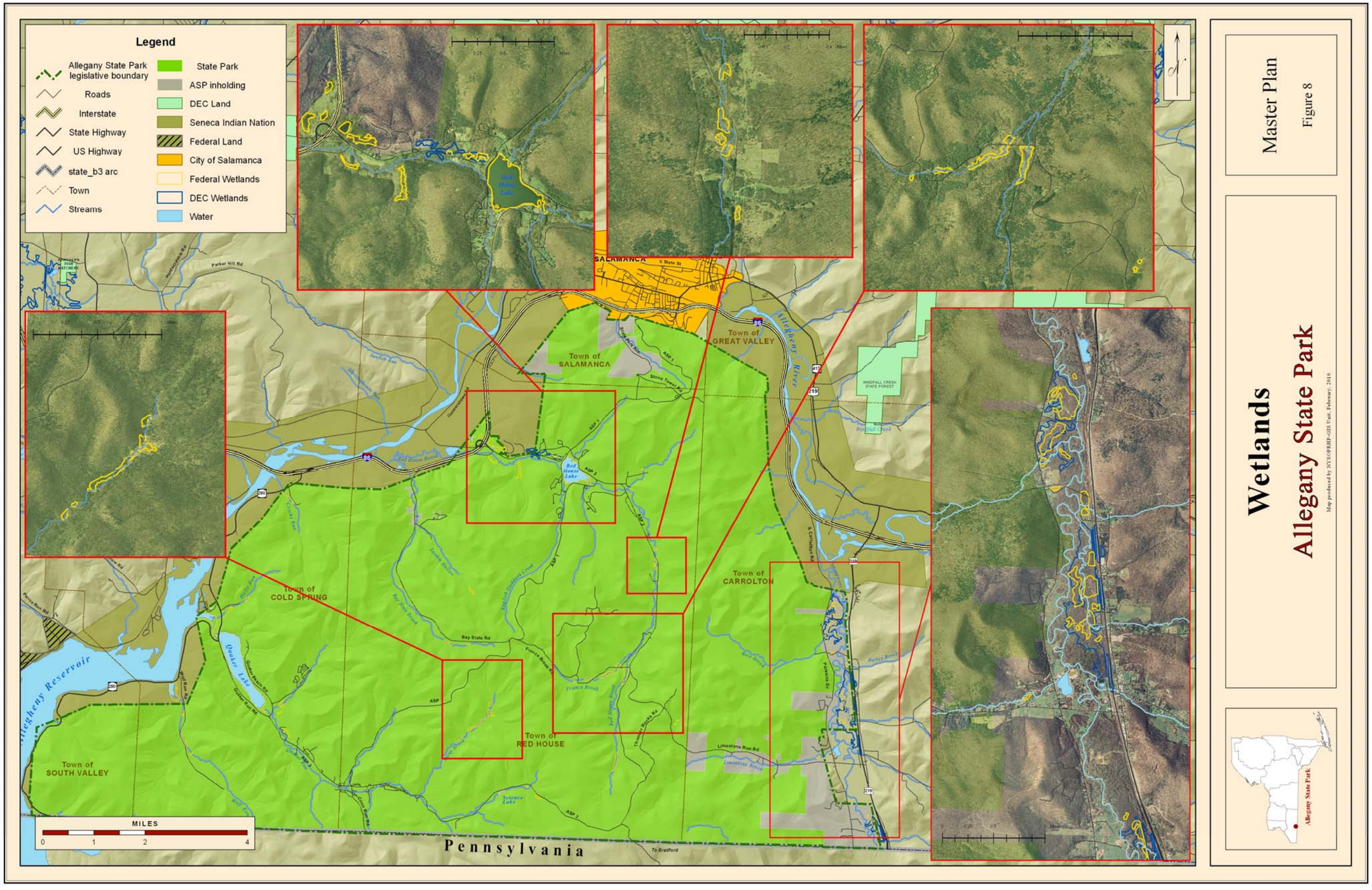


Figure 9 Ecological Communities

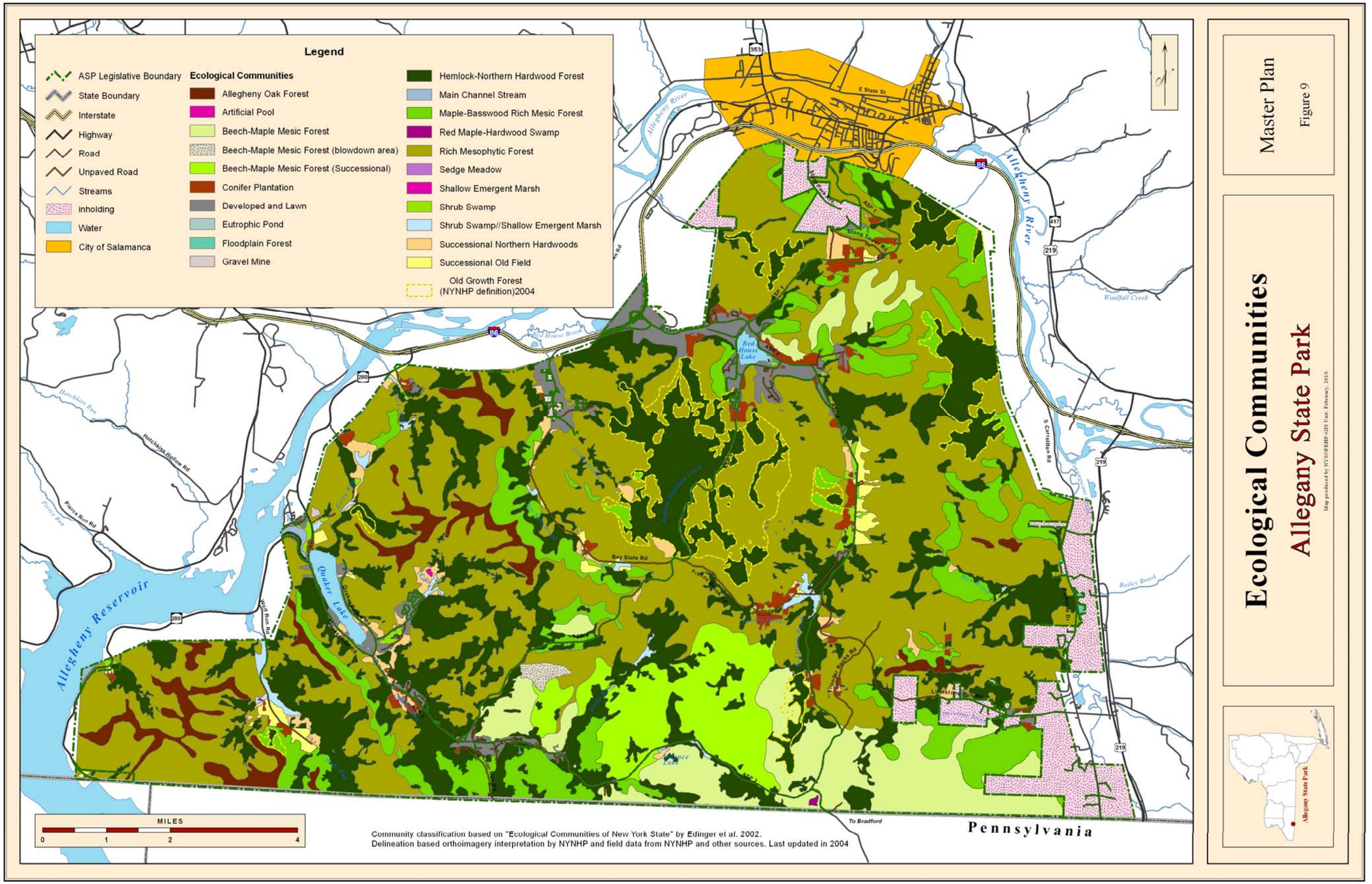


Figure 10 Significant Ecological Communities

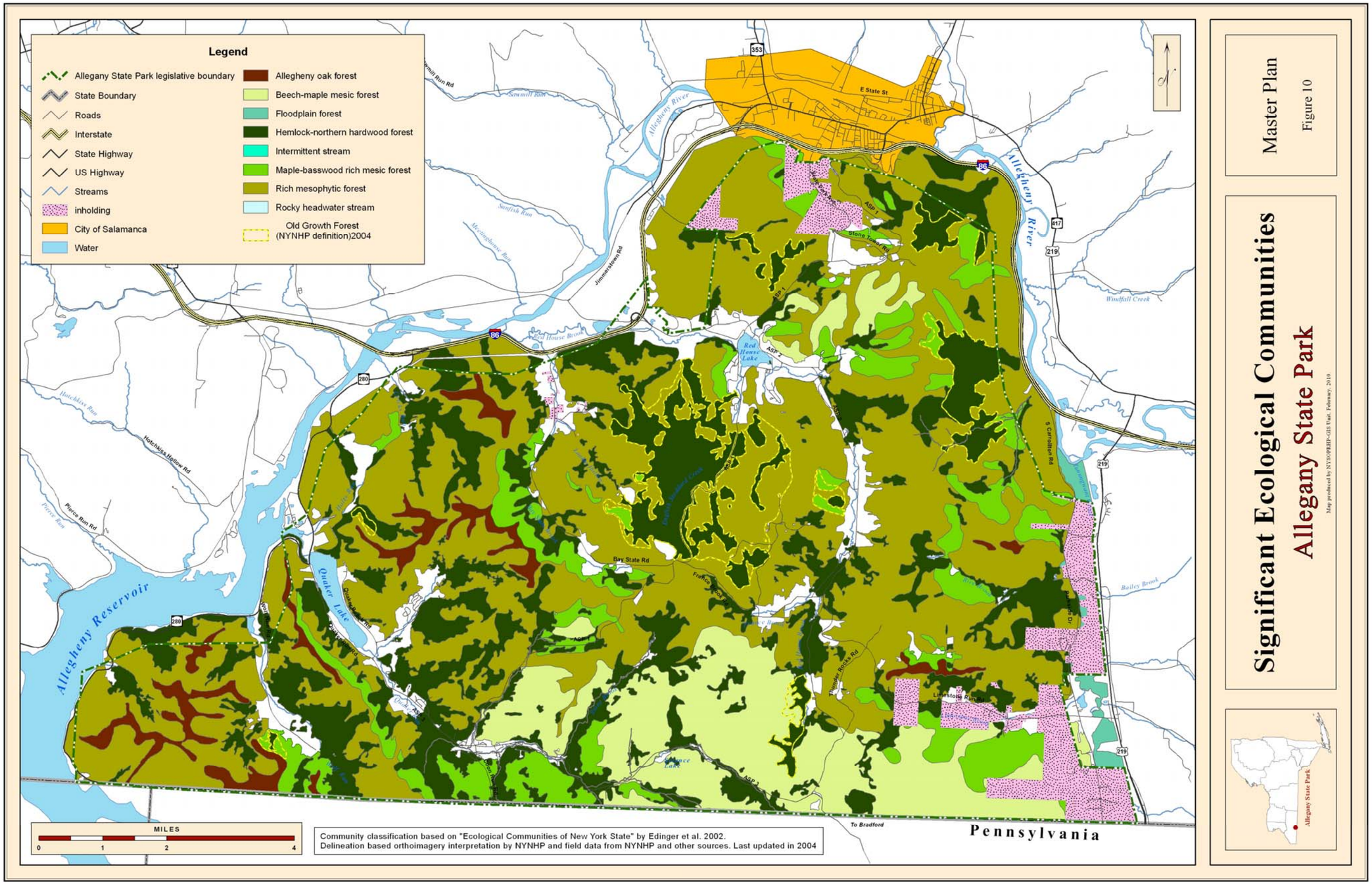


Figure 11 Park Preservation Area

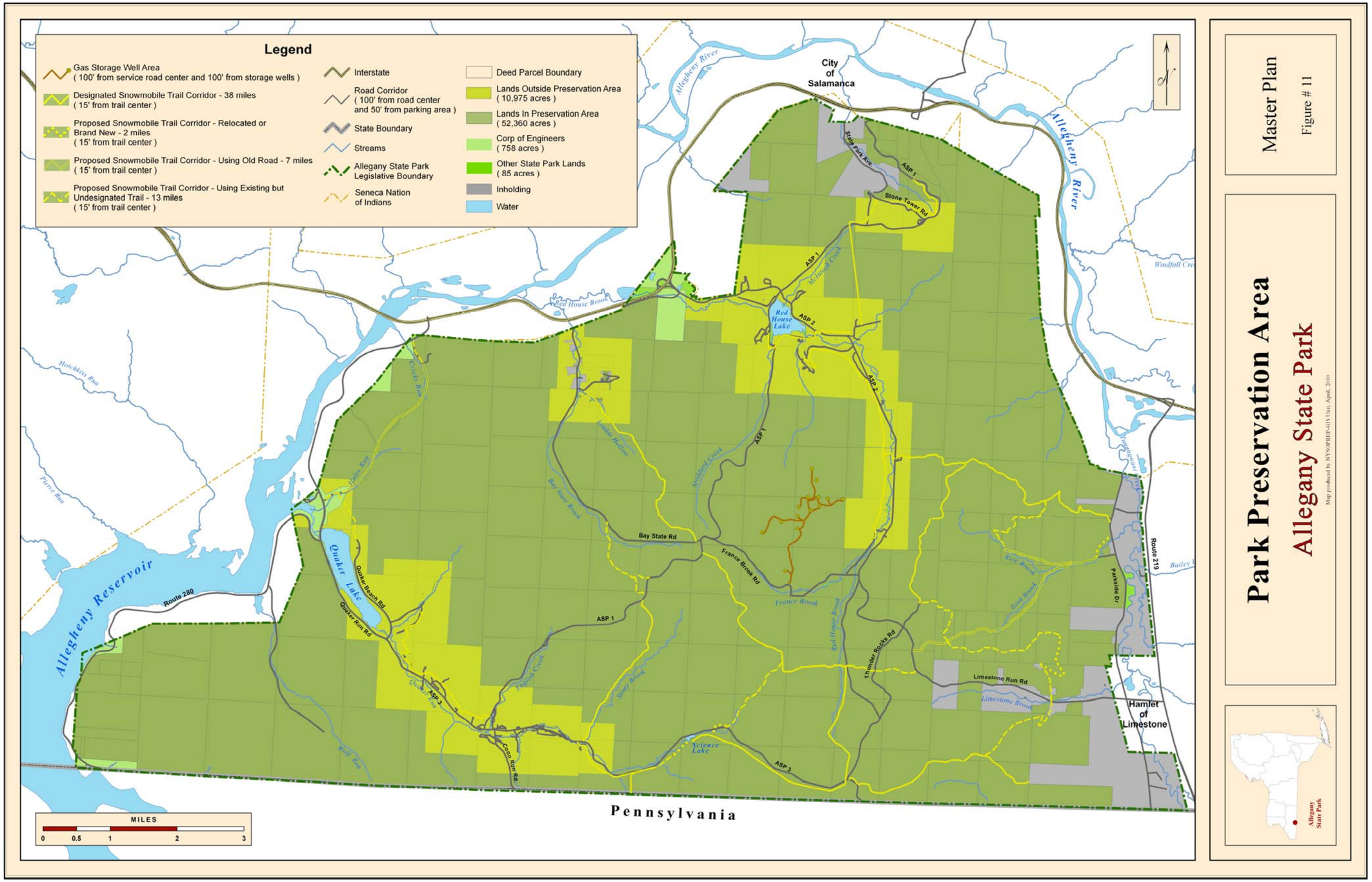


Figure 12 Cottages on Bova Road Concept Sketch

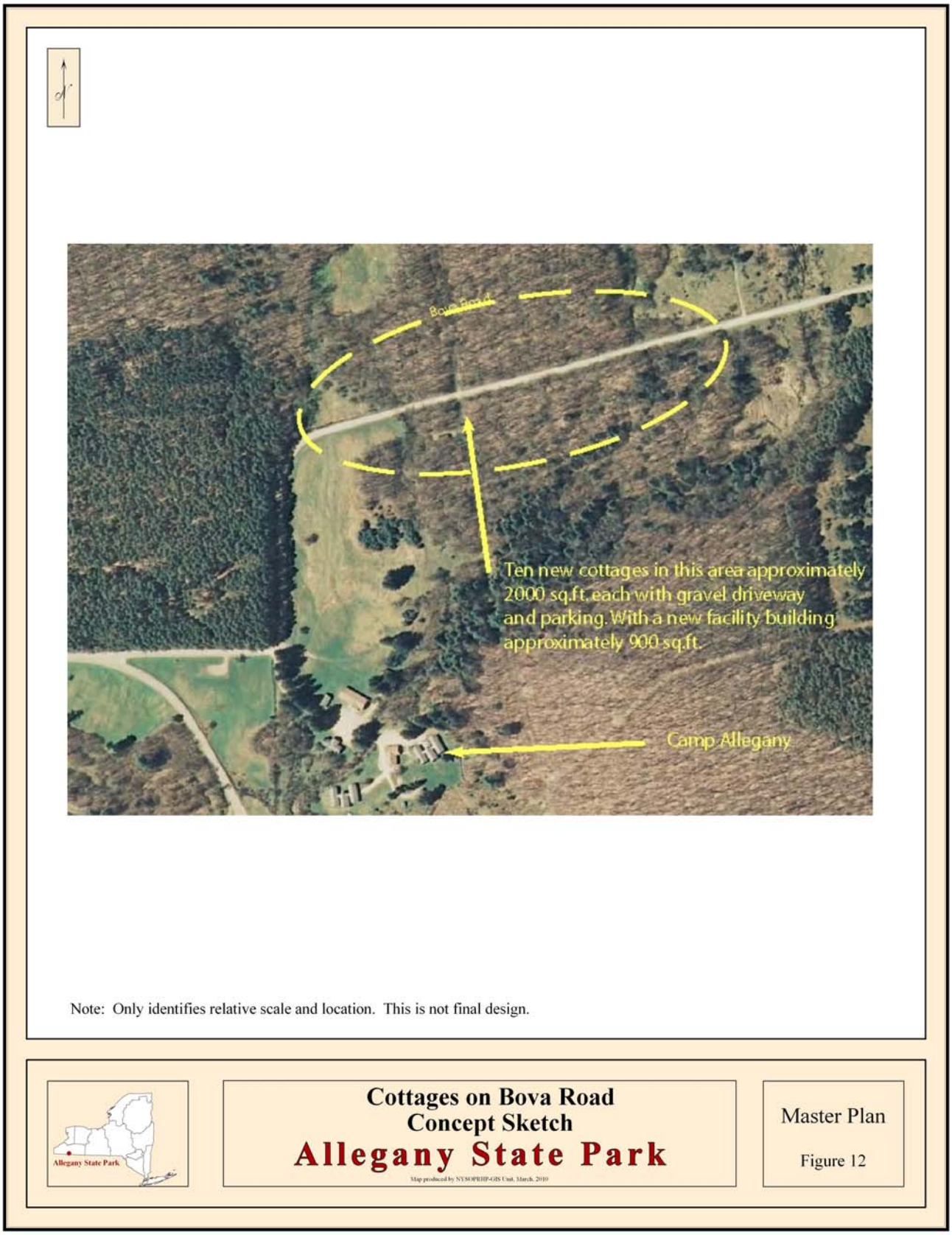


Figure 13 Visitor Center/Interpretive Center Concept Sketch

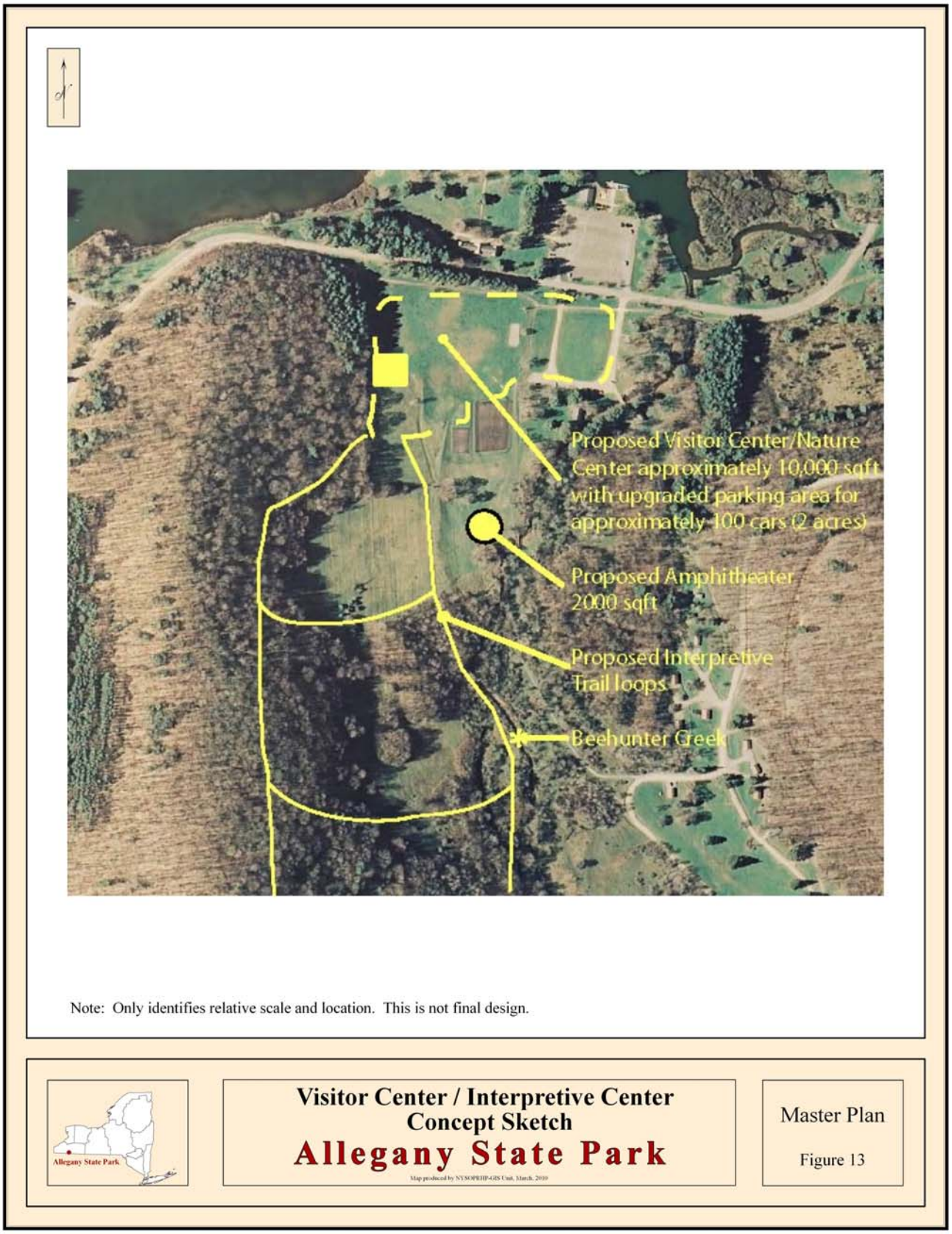


Figure 14 Regional Maintenance Center Concept Sketch

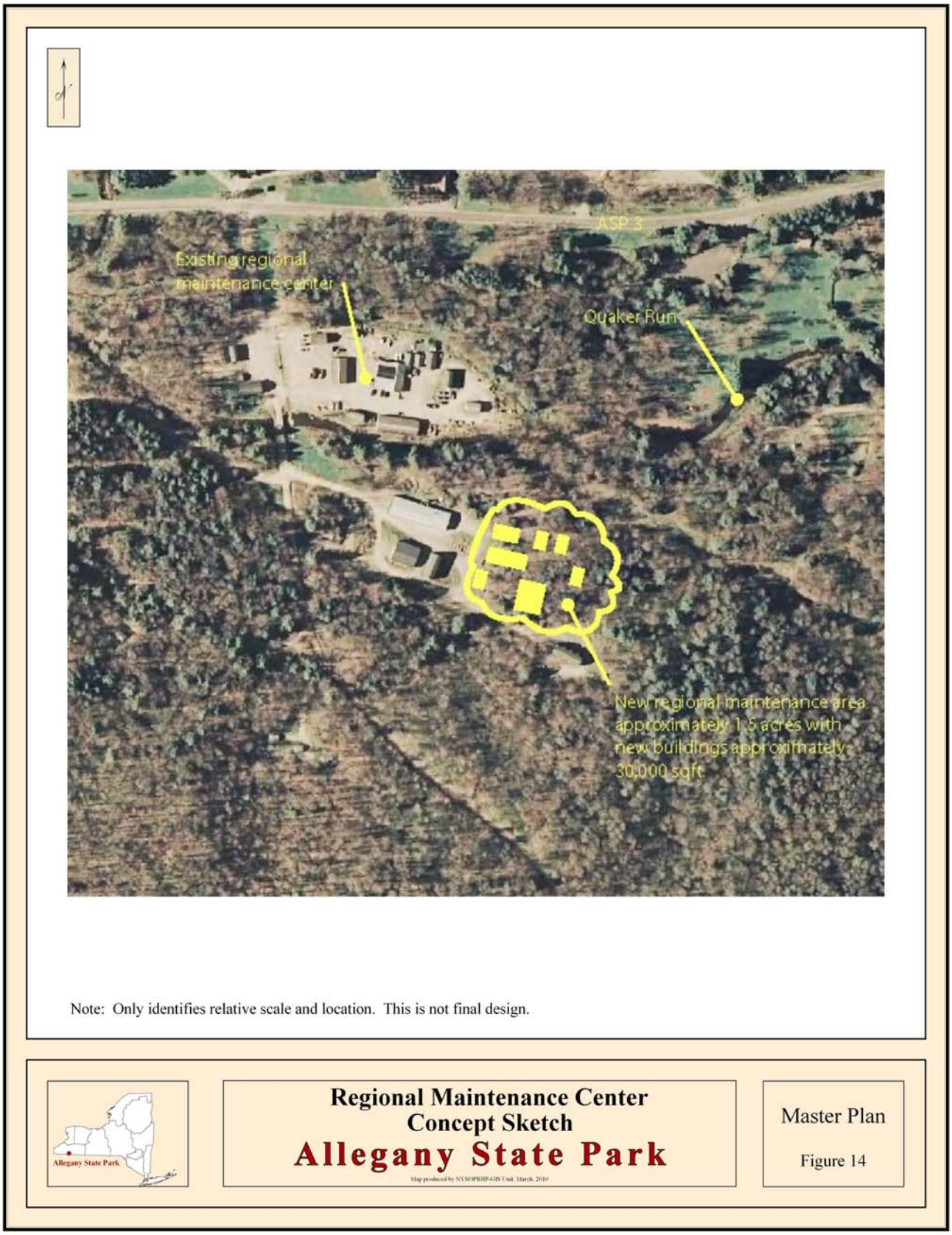


Figure 15 Red House Maintenance Area Concept Sketch

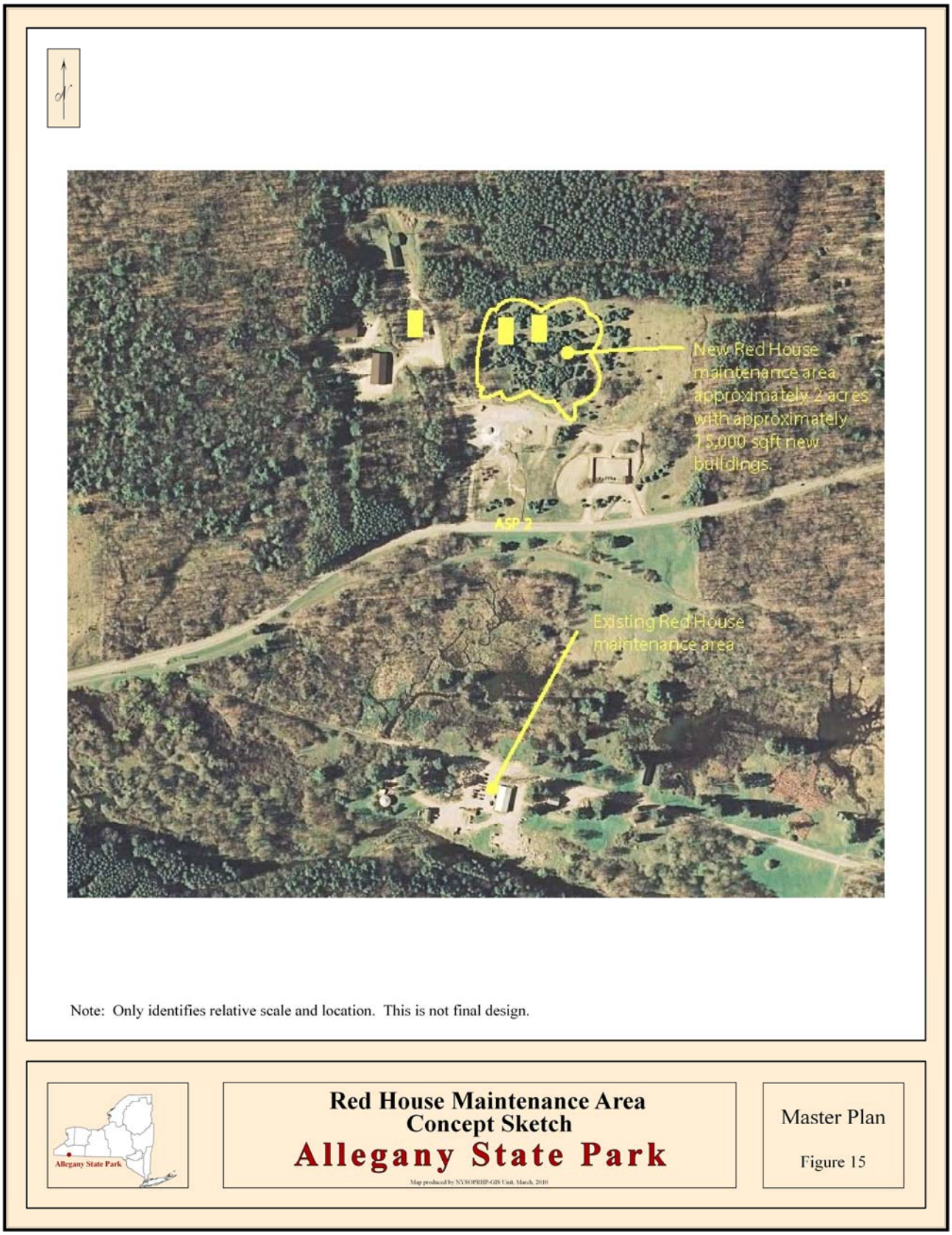
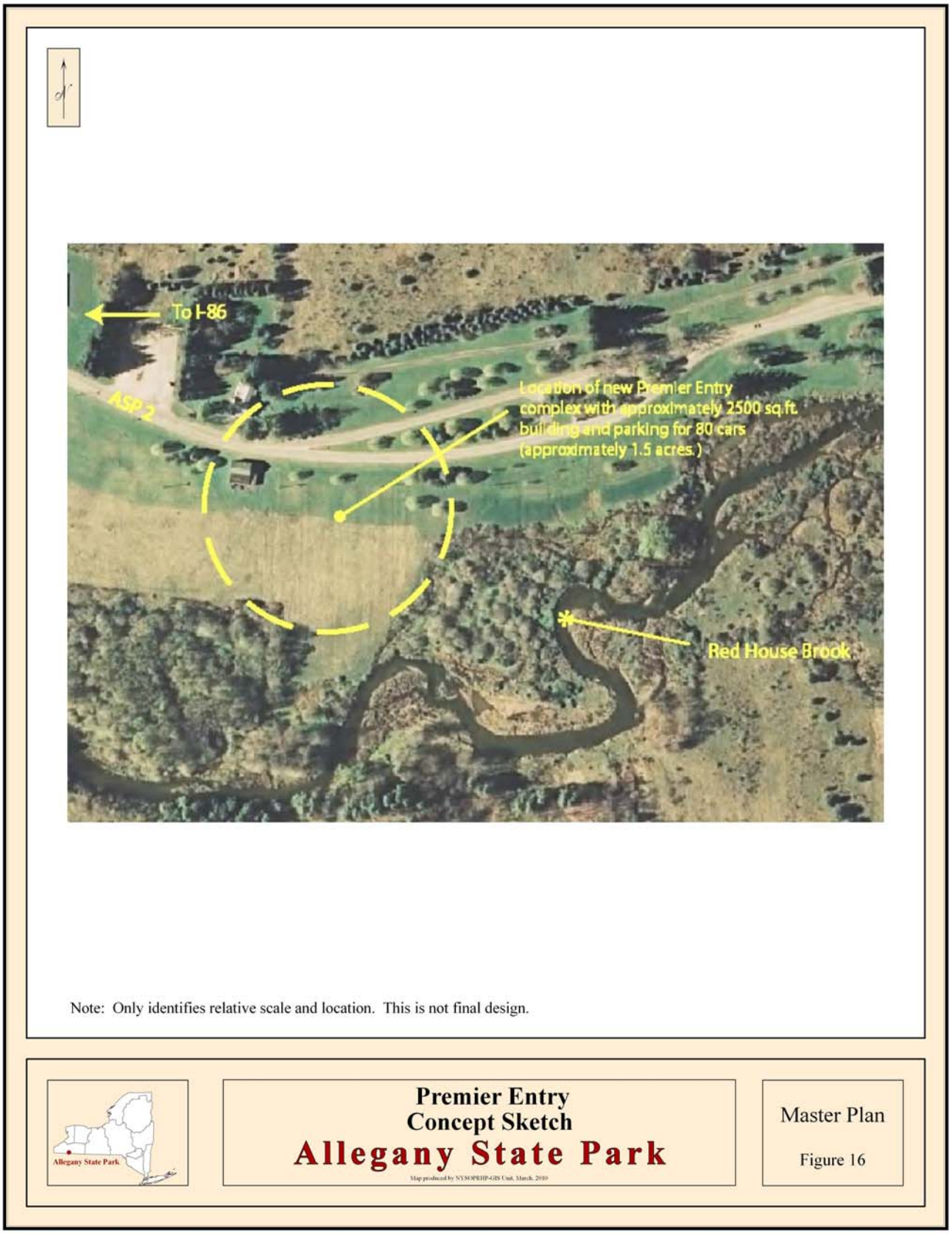


Figure 16 Premier Entry Concept Sketch



Master Plan
Allegany State Park

Scenic Resource Protection

- Management and preservation of flora and fauna observation areas
- Management and preservation of vista points

Cultural Resource Protection

Archaeological Resources
- Proposed projects that could result in ground disturbance will require consultation with the Field Services Bureau

Historic Resources
- Rehabilitation and/or modification of contributing stuctures will be in conformance with the Letter of Resolution
- Cabin rehabilitations and replacements will continue with approved designs

Cain Hollow

- New carry-in camping area
- New basketball court at Cain Hollow

New Boat Launch

- New car top boat launch at southern end of Quaker Lake

Wolf Run

- New backpack camping

Gateway Entrance

- New premier gateway entrance on ASP 2 to include
- Camping registration
- Visitor information services

Maintenance Area

- Relocated Red House maintenance area

Sawmill

- Sawmill and buildings to be stabilized
- Will be available for guided tours and interpretation

Administration Building

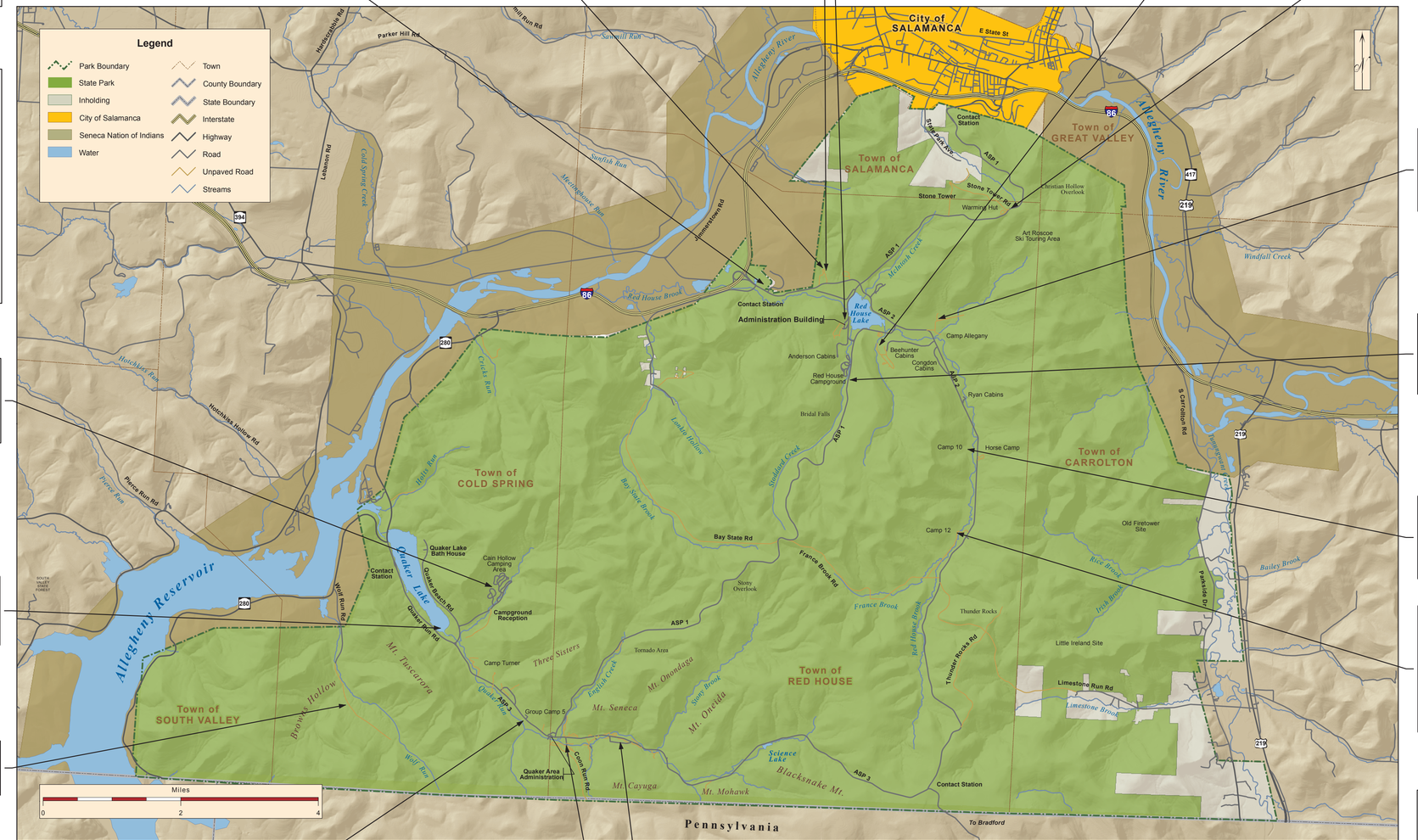
- Building will be restored including energy conservation, historic considerations, window restorations and ADA compliance
- Comprehensive landscape plan
- Historic structures report to be written

Beehunter Area

- New visitor/nature center
- New ampitheater

Art Roscoe Ski Touring Area

- Expand warming hut



Bova Road Area

- New full service cottages on Bova Road above Camp Allegany

Red House Campground Area

- Lower density in Red House Camping Area
- Recreational Vehicle Sites

Group Camp 10

- New equestrian camping Center along with existing facilities

Group Camp 12

- New cabins in the same style as the existing ones
- New wash house
- Rehabilitated mess hall
- Improved landscape infrastructure and drainage

Natural Resource Protection

- Entire park designated as a Bird Conservation Area
- Entire park designated as a Natural Heritage Area
- 83% of the park designated as a Park Preservation Area
- Stream protection and monitoring
- Maintenance dredging of lakes as needed
- Survey and control of Eurasian Water Milfoil in Quaker and Red House Lakes
- Periodic mowing of open fields
- Invasive species management plan

Group Camp 5

- New barracks style accommodations
- New washhouse

Maintenance Area

- Relocated regional maintenance area

Parallell Trail

- Additional new full service cottages

Trails

- New 7.6-mile Quaker Area Bikeway
- 58 miles of trails designated for biking.
- 20-mile network of single-track mountain biking trails
- Designated trails open for equestrian use expanded to 67 miles
- Hiking trail network expanded to 185 miles of single use and shared trails.
- Art Roscoe Ski Touring Area will be rehabilitated and upgraded
- Network of designated snowmobile trails expanded to 88 miles
- Three new snowmobile and equestrian staging areas
- Trailhead parking areas improved
- New interpretive trails

OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE

Map produced by NYSOPRHP-GIS Unit, June 30, 2010