

Catskill Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

January 29, 2021 at 10:00am

Meeting held via Zoom

Jeff Senterman welcomed all present and thanked everyone for taking part virtually. He went over a few housekeeping and technical details for the zoom meeting.

Jeff thanked stakeholders who submitted their reports ahead of time and noted that it allows for everyone to get the information beforehand and that any reports received will be included with the minutes when they are distributed.

Updates:

NYSDEC

CAG: Peter Frank provided an update on the Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group (CAG) process. The CAG was established by the DEC, by request of the Governor and is charged with making recommendations to the Commissioner of DEC to address impacts to the Catskill Park from high use.

Peter said that the 4th meeting was held yesterday and that the overall process has been slower due to the online nature of the meetings. The group has been visioning it's goals and is now moving into research in order to move towards recommendations. Peter noted that a survey from the CAG would be going out to the public soon. The group has formed subcommittees to research and make recommendations about different aspects of the Park. He noted that the meeting notes are now being posted on the DEC website.

Sean Mahoney asked what the output of the CAG was. Peter stated that the output is a strategic framework that will be presented to the Commissioner and that the DEC will prepare a strategic plan based on that framework.

Jamie Deppen asked about a time period. Peter said that the CAG was looking to report out an interim report towards the end of May for immediate recommendations. A final plan is scheduled for January.

Peter Senterman asked that landowners near trailhead parking areas be interviewed as part of the CAG process to understand their concerns and gather information from them about the current situation (and historical situation).

FPAC: Jeff noted that much of the last FPAC meeting was dedicated to Adirondack issues. Peter Frank noted that there was a discussion about the

Debar Lodge in the Adirondacks that may be applicable to the Catskills and any historic structures we may have on the Forest Preserve.

Adopt A Trailhead Program: McCreigh Burnham noted that an Adopt a Trailhead Program is being developed by the DEC to allow stewardship groups to adopt trailheads. The groups could engage in welcoming activities, litter pickups, etc., at the trailhead.

DEC Region 3: Ian Dunn noted that the gates at Alder Lake and Onteora Lake have been closed. The new Red Hill Fire Tower trail is now open. Ian also noted that hikers must stay on the trail when hiking the Seager Trail. The private landowners who own the trail that the trail traverses have closed off access to Doubletop and Graham Mountains and requested all hikers stay on the Seager Trail when they pass through the property.

DEC Region 4: Alicia Sullivan reported that the UMP updates for Colgate was coming along and that the UMP for the Mount Hayden area would be next up. She also noted that the Mountain Turnpike bridges had been completed, as were repairs to the Observation Platform at Kaaterskill Falls, and repairs in the Hunter Brook area.

Alicia noted that upcoming work includes replacing the Diamond Notch Bridge, replacing the Devil's Kitchen Lean-to (and bridge), installing new trail counters at Kaaterskill Falls, and installing a vehicle counter at the Laurel House Parking Area.

Jeff Rider noted that the port-a-john contract has been completed and will be larger than last year - with more port-a-johns located at existing locations and at new locations.

Sean Mahoney asked when would the counters be installed and Alicia stated that they would be installed this spring, before the busy season begins.

Peter Senterman asked that the DEC consider expanding the Prediger Road Trailhead Parking Area, as it has been filling up and overflowing down Prediger Road lately.

Moe Lemire mentioned that he had visited McKinley Hollow recently and that there were at least 35 cars there, which had overloaded the parking area and caused a parking situation. Ian noted that the lot isn't usually that crowded, but it has become more popular. Bill Rudge noted that there is little room to expand that parking. Jeff Senterman noted that he has some concerns about increased use of certain areas due to the popularity of hiking/climbing lists. In this case, this lot services Balsam Mountain. Jeff S. suggested a study of these parking areas to determine why people are packing what used to be fairly underutilized lots.

DEC Forest Rangers: Jeff Briegle reported that in the last few years in winter, there have been a number of issues at Big Hollow. People are parking in the

snow plow turnaround and the plow can't turn around. He reported that there were 43 cars in the turnaround last weekend.

NYCDEP

Tom Davidock said that overall the DEP Recreation Program has been busy. 2020 was a very busy year and it looks to be another busy year in 2021. He noted that the boating program is gearing up and access permits are being renewed. He noted that the boating program should run normally in 2021. They saw a small increase in the overall number of boaters in 2020 over 2019 - even with less vendors.

Tom noted that there's a new trail to a vista on top of Red Hill that the DEP is very excited about. The vista is located to the south of the Fire Tower.

The Ashokan Rail Trail (ART) has been a big attraction with lots of users. The DEP has received a lot of positive user feedback. There were 235,000 visitors in 2020, with 68,000 of them being bike users. Tom noted that the use has been steady and is expected to continue to be high in 2021.

Kathy Nolan thanked the DEP for the ART and noted that in light of the high use, the ART has really helped as a place to send unprepared folks. It is a place for folks to enjoy the outdoors without sending them into the backcountry. Kathy thanked the Woodstock Land Conservancy and the NYNJ Trail Conference for their stewards on the ART.

Pete Senterman asked if there was a plan to extend the ART. Bill Rudge said that the next phase is to be from Big Indian to Highmount - and that a feasibility study was being completed for that section.

Maxanne Resnick noted that tremendous credit for the success of the ART goes to Chris White who led the effort. He recently left Ulster County and is now the Newburgh City Administrator.

Moe Lemire noted that the ART is a great introduction to the Catskills for visitors.

Paul Lenz noted that building partnerships like DEP has with the ART is key to continuing success and progress.

NYSDOT

Ed Frantz said that there had been some damage to state highways, including Route 214 from the Christmas Storm and that repairs would be ongoing.

Ed said that the DOT is working to allow terrestrial animal passage on new bridges, including on the new bridge on Route 28 in Mount Tremper.

He noted that a Catskill Park viewer for the DOT is being developed.

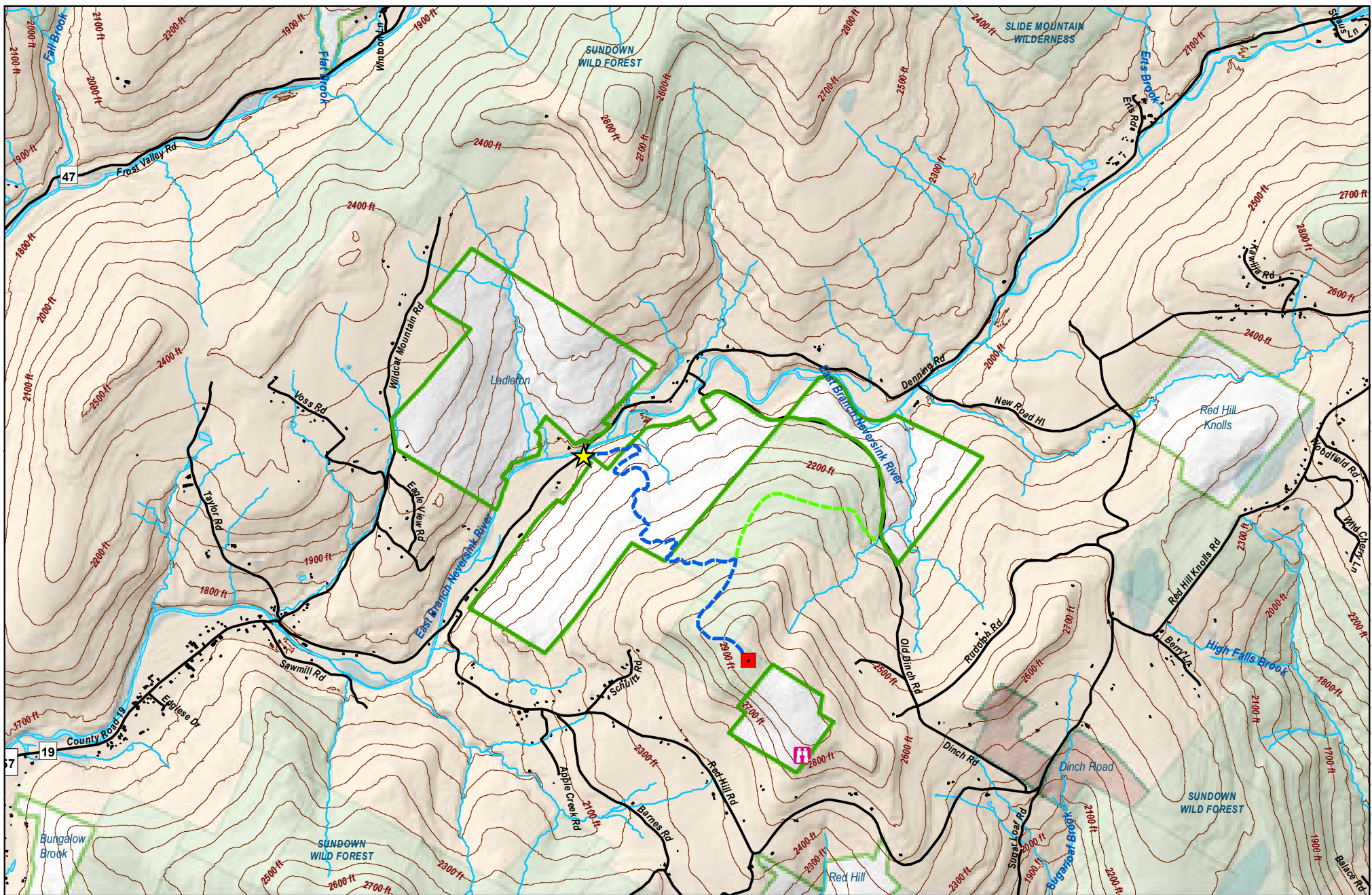
Signage for the Park is being updated.

Ed noted that a succession plan is needed for the Transportation Working Group. He will be retiring soon and won't be able to lead that effort. He requested that it be set up as a subcommittee of the CPAC and that DOT representatives be involved to keep the DOT involved. Jeff S. noted that he'd be happy to have the TWG be part of the CPAC and would work with Ed to make it happen.

Reports

- **CATS:** No report
- **Catskill Center:** See attached report
- **Catskill Fire Tower Project:** See attached report
- **Catskill Mountain Club:** See attached report. Kathy Nolan asked if the Ashokan Quarry Trail the CMC built with DEP was open in the winter and Wendell said yes. Wendell noted that around 8,500 people used the trail in 2020. Moe noted that it was a great hike with a great reward.
- **Catskill Mountainkeeper:** No report
- **Catskill Park Coalition / Catskill Park Day:** Refer to Catskill Center report
- **CRISP:** See attached report
- **Catskill Scenic Byways:** See attached report
- **Catskill Science Collaborative:** See attached report. Jamie noted that 9 applications were received for study this year and two were selected. One will be studying the effects of invasive earthworms and the other will be modeling the susceptibility of Catskill waters to invasive plants.
- **Catskill Watershed Corporation:** Barbara noted that the CWC has been losing vendors and steam cleaners from the boating program. She stated that the Neversink Reservoir now needs new vendors.
- **Catskill 3500 Club:** See attached report
- **Catskills Lark in the Park:** No report
- **Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower:** See attached report
- **Hunter Area Trails Coalition:** See attached report
- **Kaaterskill Clove Working Group:** See attached minutes

- **New York New Jersey Trail Conference:** Josh Howard noted that the Trail Conference was seeking to fill a number of its Americorps positions, both for the Catskills and in the rest of their work area.
- **NYSOGA/Catskills Guide Collective:** The local guides are creating a collaborative to increase cooperation amongst guides and take a bigger part in conversations around stewardship and park management.
- **Trout Unlimited:** No report
- **Watershed Agricultural Council:** No report
- **WARF:** No report
- **Water Discovery Center:** No report
- **Woodstock Land Conservancy:** No report

















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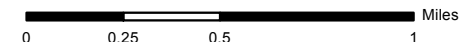
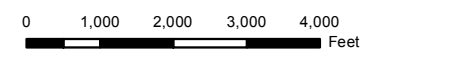
744 Acres

Ulster County, Town of Denning

★ Long: 74°31'45.38"W Lat: 41°56'6.364"N

Uses: Hiking, Fishing, Hunting & Trapping

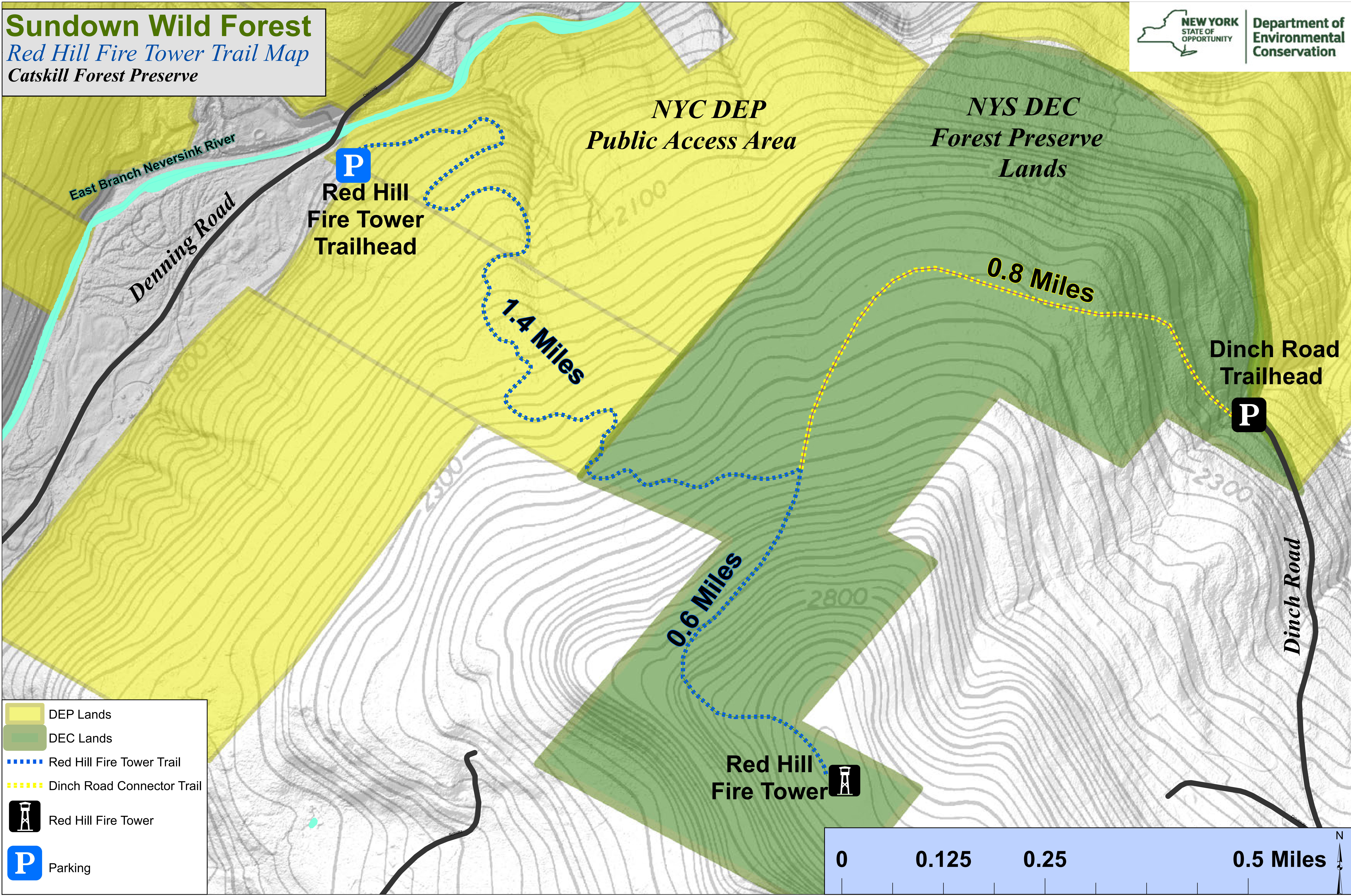
-  Senic_Vista
-  Red Hill Fire Tower
-  Red Hill Fire Trail
-  Dinch Road Connector Trail
-  NYCDEP Public Access Area
-  New York State or Other Public Land
-  Private Land
-  Other DEP Recreational Units
-  Rivers, Ponds, Lakes, and Reservoirs
-  Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Buildings
-  Roads
-  100 Ft Elevation Contours





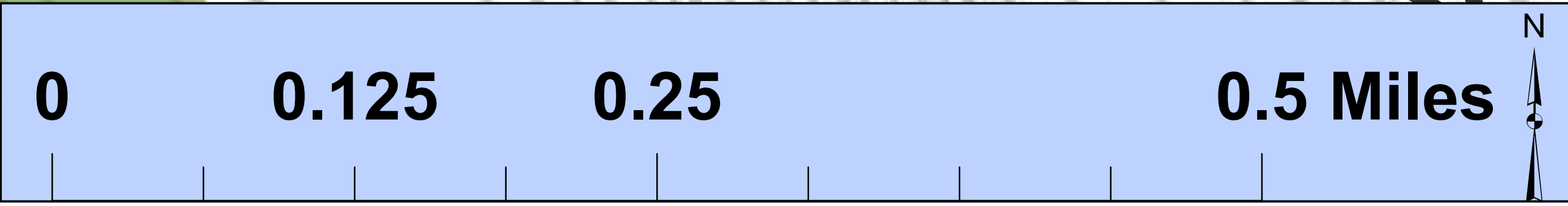
Sundown Wild Forest

Red Hill Fire Tower Trail Map

Catskill Forest Preserve

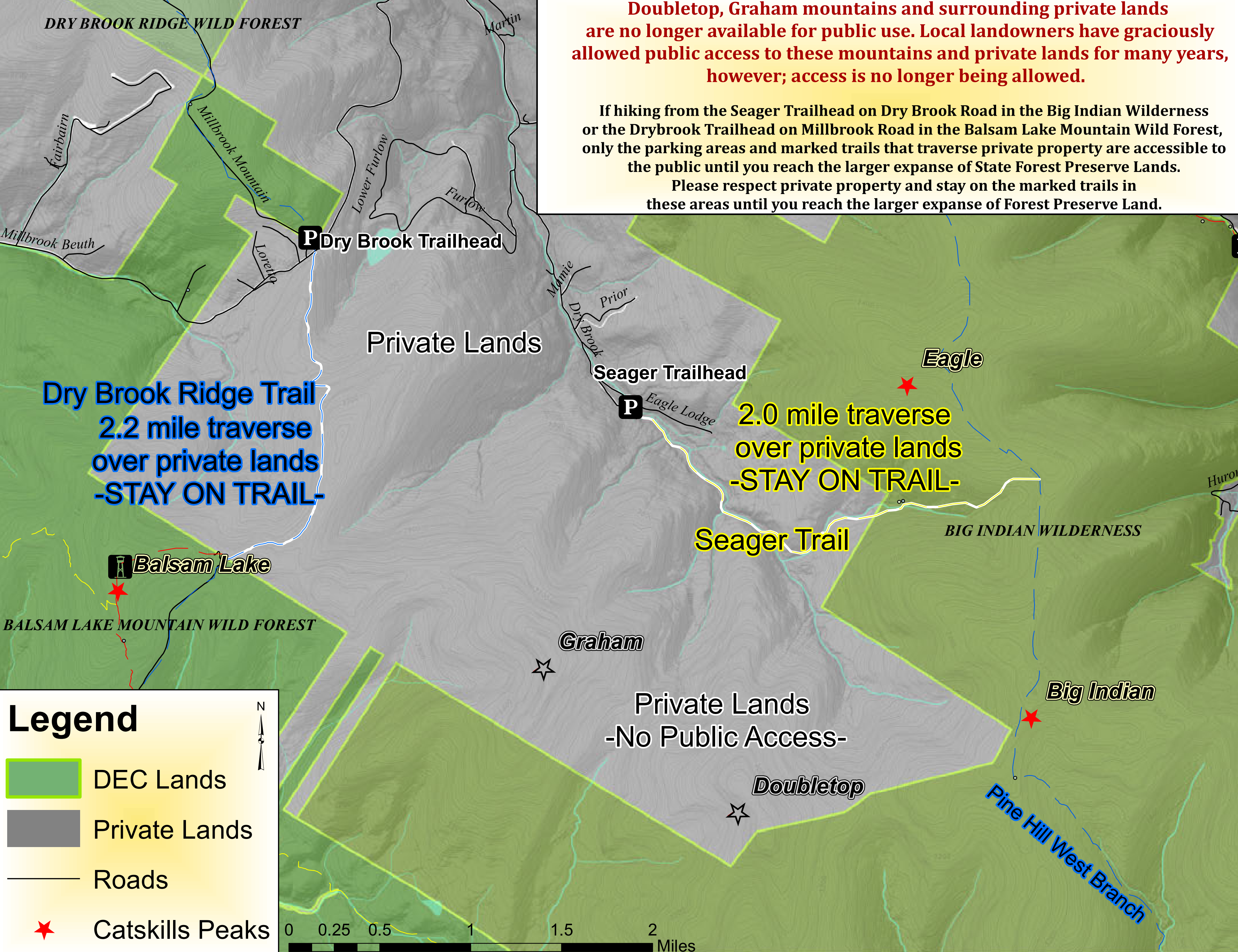


-  DEP Lands
-  DEC Lands
-  Red Hill Fire Tower Trail
-  Dinch Road Connector Trail
-  Red Hill Fire Tower
-  Parking



Doubletop, Graham mountains and surrounding private lands are no longer available for public use. Local landowners have graciously allowed public access to these mountains and private lands for many years, however; access is no longer being allowed.

If hiking from the Seager Trailhead on Dry Brook Road in the Big Indian Wilderness or the Drybrook Trailhead on Millbrook Road in the Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest, only the parking areas and marked trails that traverse private property are accessible to the public until you reach the larger expanse of State Forest Preserve Lands. Please respect private property and stay on the marked trails in these areas until you reach the larger expanse of Forest Preserve Land.



Legend

- DEC Lands
- Private Lands
- Roads
- Catskills Peaks

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Catskill Center for Conservation and Development

Catskill Park Advisory Committee Update For January 29, 2021 Meeting

Catskill Stewards Program: The Catskill Stewards Program has concluded its busy 2020 season. Even with an uncertain start to the season our three full time stewards and one part time steward worked diligently to ensure the continued protection of the Peekamoose Blue Hole, Kaaterskill Falls, and Platte Clove Preserve. The observations were astounding, more people, impacts, and trash than the stewards have ever witnessed before; making the value of having the stewards onsite even more clear. The stewards greeted each visitor, rid these areas of litter, rehabilitated illegal campsites, protected stream quality, and educated visitors to encourage self reliance and minimum impact recreation.

The 2020 Catskill Stewards Program in numbers

Total Visitors: 72,859 (27% increase from 2019)

Total Bags of Litter Removed: 351 (34% increase from 2019)

Total Campfires Rehabilitated: 25 (compared to 21 in 2019)

2021 Catskill Stewards Program: The Catskill Center will place full-time Stewards at the Peekamoose Blue Hole and Kaaterskill Falls. We are looking to provide coverage 7-days a week at the Blue Hole with expanded staffing. A part-time Steward will be placed at Platte Clove. In addition, a full-time roving Steward (a “ridge runner”) will be hired to be on the trails and interact with visitors. The Steward will coordinate with the necessary DEC staff. Look for job postings by mid-February. We are also looking to bolster and expand the Steward program with the addition of volunteer Stewards to support the paid staff at busy locations and expand to other locations as DEC requests.

Catskill Park Coalition: The Catskill Center and Catskill Mountainkeeper is calling together the members of the Catskill Park Coalition to advocate for the following priorities:

Public Safety and Catskill Park Management -- Given the exponential growth of visitors and the subsequently increasing pressure on the Catskill Park's infrastructure, natural resources, and management, the Catskill Park Coalition calls for:

- Increased staffing at the NYSDEC's Division of Lands and Forests in Region 3 and 4 to better manage the Catskill Park and its more than 1.7 million annual visitors; and
- Continued annual Forest Ranger Academies to maintain and increase Ranger staff to provide a safe experience for all who visit the Catskill Park.

Environmental Protection Fund Priorities to Enhance and Protect the Catskills -- a fully funded \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund is required to adequately protect New York's Environment and specifically for the responsible protection and management of natural and recreational resources in the Catskill Park, therefore the Catskill Park Coalition calls for:

- Continued inclusion of the \$150,000 line, directed to the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development for the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Visitor Center's management, operations and facilities maintenance to support a world-class experience for visitors;
- Continued inclusion of the \$150,000 line, directed to the Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies to support the Catskill Science Collaborative's research on topics of importance in the Catskills;
- Continued inclusion of the \$750,000 line directed to Cornell University for the "Save the Hemlocks" initiative to fight the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid;
- Continued inclusion of funding of at least \$300,000 for Smart Growth Grants to help Catskill communities and nonprofits sustainably improve the Park;
- Continued inclusion of funding for continued upgrades and improvements to the state-owned Belleayre Ski Center; and
- At least \$10 million in stewardship funding to support Catskill Park education efforts, improvements and infrastructure maintenance in light of continued exponential visitor growth.

Supporting Local Economies -- Supporting Catskills Communities by investing in projects with direct community benefits, while at the same time addressing increasing visitor pressures is key to supporting local economies and protecting natural resources, therefore the Catskill Park Coalition calls for:

- \$500,000 to develop a swimming area at the Kenneth Wilson State Campground; and
- \$250,000 to implement and construct previously approved mountain biking trail system for the Shandaken Wild Forest.

Catskill Park Day on February 2, 2021 will be a virtual call to action day and a webinar will be held on the 9th of February with legislators to speak about the importance of Catskill Park Advocacy.

Catskill Fire Tower Project: See attached report.

Catskills Visitor Center: See attached report.

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership: See attached report.

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan: The Catskill Center seeks a qualified consultant or consulting firm to develop an Internal JEDI strategy for the Catskill Center, provide appropriate training to Catskill Center Board and Staff on JEDI issues, facilitate the establishment of a Catskill Park JEDI stakeholder working group, and in collaboration with these stakeholders, develop a preliminary JEDI strategy for the Catskill Park. Full request for proposals at - <https://catskillcenter.org/jedi-consultant-rfp>

Final Greater Catskill Region Comprehensive Recreation Plan: The Catskill Center is pleased that the final version of the Recreation Plan has been completed. We look forward to working with partners across the region in the implementation of the plan. The plan can be downloaded from the CWC <https://cwconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Greater-Catskill-Region-Comprehensive-Recreation-Plan.pdf>.

Catskills Strategic Planning Advisory Group: As part of the CAG, the Catskill Center will give voice to the need to protect unique natural resources, for better and more facilities, for appropriate DEC planning and enforcement staffing, increased visitor interpretive services and increased educational programs. Alongside regulation and new facilities, it will be central to offer visitors educational opportunities focusing on responsible outdoor recreation. Effective education will help enable visitors to make safe and smart decisions on the trail, which will protect their experience and the natural resources of the Forest Preserve. It will also be important to ensure that visitors have the tools to enjoy, visit and spend time in the communities of the Catskill Park, to ensure that our economies also benefit from this increasing number of visitors. <https://catskillcenter.org/news/2020/10/26/catskill-center-named-member-of-advisory-group-to-find-ways-to-balance-public-use-with-natural-resource-protection-in-the-catskill-park>

How To Videos: The Catskill Center has produced a number of outdoor how-to videos to help visitors to the Park recreate responsibly. The can be found on IGTV (<https://www.instagram.com/catskillcenter/channel/>) and on Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4BcstOpQR9vWCYsJphLABA>).



Catskill Fire Tower Project

Report for the Quarter 1 Catskill Advisory Committee Meeting (CPAC) on January 29th 2021

Since the Fall Quarter 4 CPAC meeting, the Catskill Center's Catskill Fire Tower Project (CFTP) has been working on volunteer appreciation and recruitment. Catskill Center worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) to keep the Mount Tremper Fire Tower top cab open through the winter to encourage year-round usage and to offer a great winter vista to hikers. Two CFTP volunteer coordinators have recently stepped down, Mark Atchinson for Mount Tremper Fire Tower and Doug Hamilton for Red Hill Fire Tower. Doug Hamilton plans to stay on with the program as a volunteer. Tammy Porter and John Green will be taking over as Red Hill Fire Tower Coordinators. Catskill Center is working towards bringing on a new coordinator for Mount Tremper or may organize volunteers internally for the 2021 season. The CFTP coordinators will be meeting on February 10th 2021 on Zoom with Catskill Center staff to review the 2020 season and to talk about plans for 2021.

CMC Report - CPAC

January 29, 2021

The CMC's trails experienced a remarkable increase in use during 2020. Approximately 21000 hikers visited the trails, more than twice as many as did in 2019. The steep increase was due to a general increase seen elsewhere as covid drove up interest in outdoor recreation and to the opening of the Ashokan Quarry Trail, unofficially on January 1st and officially on July 18th. We estimate that 8000 – 9000 hikers visited the AQT during the year. Overall trail usage was reduced by a 2½ month closure of the Shavertown Trail for repairs to the Snake Pond dam. A new trail to the Tremperskill Overlook was constructed and opened in early September. Work on the new Morris Hill Trail will resume as soon as the weather permits. After the route is mapped, DEP will review it and issue the Land Use Permit. We hope to have it open by late spring or early summer. The CMC board of directors decided during a meeting earlier this week to investigate construction of a trail on the DEP's Grinch House parcel in Roxbury. There is a great deal of community support for that project already, and we look forward to working with local volunteers to build and maintain a trail to this unique site.

We have decided that the 2021 Views from the Watershed bus tour program will have to be postponed again for 2021 due to uncertainty about progress controlling the covid pandemic. We are exploring the idea of having a virtual experience for this year and are applying for a grant to continue the tour program in 2022.

Recognizing that covid is a worsening crisis but that vaccinations are on the way and other methods of containment are being encouraged by the new federal administration, we hope to restart in-person events in May. Necessary precautions will be observed as needed.

Catskill Park Coalition Priorities for the SFY 2022:

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Updates 1/29/2020

Working with our Partners, in 2020 CRISP provided 17 trainings and programs for 1,227 people. The majority of those programs were given online. Recordings of CRISP Partner Meetings are available on the CRISP website:

<https://www.catskillinvasives.com/crisp-presentations> including the “CRISP Watershed Stewards Program” presentation given on 12/17 by Paul Lord of SUNY Oneonta.

Two acres of restoration plantings were maintained in 2020. Unfortunately, the high waters of the Christmas flood damaged our planting at Thorn Preserve in Woodstock. The deer fences were knocked down along with a number of tree shelters. We have made repairs to the fence and are continuing to work to ensure that the 800 native trees and shrubs that we planted are protected from deer browse.

CRISP managed 105 sites in 2020, working with the Catskill Strike Team. We removed 4,000 mile-a-minute stems across 7 sites. Eight sites were surveyed for giant hogweed and 192 hogweed stems were removed. Removals of Early Detection Rapid Response species were performed over 4 acres. The Catskills Strike Team surveyed 822 acres of DEC Campgrounds, and other public sites, and performed control over 15 acres of invasive species.

Spotted Lanternfly is now established on Staten Island, sites in the Hudson Valley, and along the New Jersey border, very close to the CRISP boundary. At this time of year, we are asking people in our area to be extra vigilant for Spotted Lanternfly egg masses. Information is available on the CRISP website, www.catskillinvasives.com.

Please report any sightings to

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a08d60f6522043f5bd04229e00acdd63>. We are working with the NY iMapInvasives program and are planning volunteer trainings to train people to look for spotted lanternfly and its host, tree-of-heaven.

Catskill Park Advisory Committee
January 29, 2021

Updates
Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce
Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway
Catskill Water Discovery Center

Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce - During the COVID-19 pandemic the activities of the CCCC such as the Annual Mtg, Mixers and the Cauliflower Festival were not held. Yet, all of the virtual tools available to us were fully used to continue to promote our business, organizations and municipality interest. Currently we are planning to hold the annual Cauliflower Festival on Sept. 25 with final decision to be made early summer if the pandemic stops us.

The CCCC has agreed to work closely with the **Catskills Addiction Coalition** to sponsor the recent and virtual Catskills Addiction Coalition Summit with a week filled with informative and interactive workshops to further combat and bring attention to those who are suffering from Substance Abuse Disease. The CCCC has agreed to participate in a relatively new initiative which seeks to support both individuals and businesses employ those who are in recovery from addiction to move into the workforce. The CCCC again in collaboration with the CAC. The initiative provides to us and the businesses a Trained Peer Counselor. For information contact us at: 845-586-3300.

Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway – The CMSB communities have been busy during this pandemic with establishing Pollinator Gardens in a variety of locations along the byway. Seeds were provided along with Pollinator Garden lawn signs to help people learn how to be involved in improving pollinator pathways.

The annual events in our communities sponsored by each municipality could not be held this past summer. Yet, we have been keeping our website www.ScenicCatskills.com and social media current. Visit the new Pollinator Gardens section on our website. We are finishing the work on the Smart Growth grant with video of our Main Streets and other highlights.

Catskill Water Discovery Center – Happy to report that the WDC has moved into a new space at the Catskill Watershed Corporation in Arkville. The new space provides an exhibit hall with our first exhibition of the Catskill Watershed history. The WDC commissioned Quilt Artist Katherine Rosa to design and make a quilt – Under the Blue Mountains – which includes all of the villages and hamlets that were lost during the building of the reservoirs and those who remain.

The two outdoor sites that have been designated as recreation and educational locations: the 33-acre Nature Preserve and the 206-acre DEC owned Morris Hil parcel are being designed and created by collaborators: NY/NJ Trail Conference for the preserve and the Catskill Mountain Club for the Morris Hill hiking trails.

The CWDC has not yet opened, following the CDC and CWC guidelines.

Catskill Science Collaborative January 2021 CPAC Update

Cary Institute's president, Josh Ginsberg, will now oversee the Catskill Science Collaborative. Gary Lovett, the former Catskill Science Collaborative Director, retired in December.

2020 Fellow Updates

Catskill Research Fellows presented updates on their research. Jason Hagani (Columbia University) and Kelsey Parker (CUNY) presented on black bear education and hemlock wooly adelgid mapping, respectively, on November 13th. There were 99 attendees. Watch here:

<https://www.caryinstitute.org/news-insights/lecture-video/catskill-research-updates-black-bears-forest-pests>

Jenny Wang (Cornell University) and Brenden Bixby (SUNY Cobleskill) presented on stream sediment modeling and a stream habitat index, respectively, on November 23rd. There were 71 attendees. The presentations were open to the public and were advertised to researchers and natural resource managers in northeastern states with expertise in the topics presented on. Watch here:

<https://www.caryinstitute.org/news-insights/lecture-video/catskill-research-updates-stream-restoration-health>

The fellows are wrapping up their projects and their reports and data will soon be available on the Catskill Data Portal:

<https://www.uvm.edu/femc/catskill#home>

2021 Fellowships

We developed a Request for Proposals for the 2021 Catskill Research Fellowship program with 11 specific research needs collected from resource managers at the DEC, New York City DEP, Rondout Neversink Stream Program, and CRISP at the Catskill Center. An open topic category was also included. Based on emails to the Catskill Science Collaborative and communication with resource managers, there were at least 12 inquiries about the fellowship. We received nine proposals, four more than last year. We are working with DEC to select two of the fellows. A third position will be funded by the Rondout Neversink Stream Program.

**Catskill Watershed Corporation
2020 DEP Recreational Boating Program**

Boat Rental Vendors:

- Al's Sport Store
- Bradley Boat Rental, LLC
- Nickerson Park Campground
- Pepacton Bait & Tackle
- Roscoe Campground

The Boat Rack spaces were allocated as follows:

Reservoir	Nickerson Park Campground	Bradley Boat Rental	Roscoe Campsite Park	Pepacton Bait & Tackle	Al's Sport Store
Pepacton					
Shavertown				16	
Arena					
Perch Lake				4	
Raynor Brook			6		12
Miller Hollow			6		6
Neversink					
Kramers Cove					
Chandlers Cove		18			
Schoharie					
Snyder's Cove	12				
Devasego Park					
Manorkill					
Cannonsville					
Roods Creek					
Dry Brook					
Apex					
Speedwell					
Dryden Brook					
Fish Brook					
Beers Brook					

Please note that Nickerson Park Campground and Roscoe Campsite Park did not participate this year due to COVID 19 restrictions.

CWC received proper insurance certificates and licenses from each participating boat rental business and provided copies to the NYC DEP.

Each participating business was also required to report number of boats rented. Below please see the final results of the Boat Rental Businesses for 2020 Season:

Launch Site	No. of Single Rental Boats	No. of Tandem Rental Boats	Total No. of ppl.
Snyder's Cove	0	0	0
Chandler's Cove	341	92	528
Shavertown	63	41	155
Perch Lake	0	0	0
Raynor Brook	12	9	30
Miller Hollow	0	0	0
Raynor Brook	15	19	53
Miller Hollow	0	0	0
Total	431	161	766

For a total of 592 boats rented.

Vendor	June	July	August	September	October	Total
Al's Sport Store tea	15	19	11	6	4	55
Bradley Boat Rental	103	135	140	48	7	433
Nickerson Park Campground						0
Pepacton Bait & Tackle	1	46	30	21	6	104
Roscoe Campground						0
Total	119	200	181	75	17	592

Nine (9) Reservoir Boating Patches were distributed.

Steam Cleaning Vendors:

Al's Sport Store
Bradley Boat Rental, LLC

Nickerson Park Campground
Pepacton Bait & Tackle
Roscoe Campground
Neversink General Store
Catskill Recreation Center
JMT Enterprises

588 boats were tagged, for a total of 1354 users for the season.



January 29, 2020 CPAC Update

- Doubletop and Graham Mountains have been closed off to all public access by the landowners. There have been various degrees of closure by the owners since COVID, but the decision was based on the increased traffic on the mountains even before the crisis. Social media, additions of other lists besides the 3500 Club list and trespassers were all reasons given. The Club Board is meeting on January 31 and will make a decision on what/if there will be replacements. Currently South Doubletop and Millbrook Ridge are being accepted as substitutes. The Canister was removed and is being saved for historical purposes and possibly an exhibit, if the opportunity comes up.
- The Club Winter Weekend was January 23rd and 24th. While no social gatherings happened because of COVID, there were a series of hikes with reduced numbers. In addition, the weekend before we offered our first virtual class: Winter Preparedness, taught by past board members Tom and Laurie Rankin. It was very successful and is now on our youtube channel. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7_COHcznZA It is especially relevant as this is currently turning out to be a real winter and there was lots of useful information for newer winter hikers presented.
- The Club is in discussion with the NYNJTC and the DEC on possibly beginning a volunteer trailhead steward program in the Catskills, modeled on what the Adirondack 46ers do in that region and using Club members. A framework has been established and discussions and planning are underway.
- On a fun note, the Club should be reaching its 3500th finisher any day (perhaps by this meeting)!



**Catskills Visitor Center
Catskill Park Advisory Committee Report**

Staff at the CVC continue to assist visitors through a service window at the building. The service window is open 10am to 3pm every day except Wednesdays.

The CVC purchased a tracking system which will count cars entering the property and visitors utilizing the trails. The system should be installed soon.

Catskill Park Trail Information and Conditions are posted weekly at:
<https://catskillsvisitorcenter.org/hiking-and-camping/trail-conditions/>

Increased social media presence of the CVC on Facebook and Instagram has led to an uptick in on-line sales.



**Friends of
Bramley Mountain
Fire Tower, Inc.**
PO Box 63
Delhi, NY 13753



January 26, 2021

The Friends received a \$5,000 matching gift challenge from a local hiker and in less than 4 weeks we received donations to meet the challenge – kicking off our fundraising efforts for 2021.

We received a \$5,000 grant from the Musser Fund of Minnesota which will be put towards the expense of engineer's drawings. We'll be engaging the engineer very shortly and beginning the process of applying for the DEP Land Use Permit.

We are planning for a big year of fundraising and moving the project forward!

Catskill Park Advisory Committee October 28, 2020 Updates

MOUNTAIN CLOVES SCENIC BYWAY, INC.

- Second Smart Growth grant paired with regional coordination with the CMSB – nearly complete ([website up](#), [audio tour](#) done; videography of byway almost done). Nomination document completed by Peter M., with town liaisons' input, to extend MCSB through towns of Jewett and Lexington. Working with DOT to combine extension document with original corridor management plan into one corridor management plan, adding to scope of deliverable.
- MCSC Inc. started reviewing their CMP for necessary revisions, and will work with planner Peter M. on updates that will support merging the extension plan with the 2012 CMP.
- First NYSDEC Smart Growth grant completed including marketing and advertising material (brochure, tourism guide Ad, interpretive kiosk structures and panels)

KAATERSKILL CLOVE WORKING GROUP

- The KCWG has not met since last year, however, after the last CPAC meeting, it was decided to hold a fall meeting with town representatives, DEC and DOT to debrief on activities and management of Kaaterskill Clove and Falls after the extremely busy summer. Whereas this will feed into the Catskill Park Advisory Group process, the group will still meet to share information of what worked in 2020 and what did not. The CCCD is taking the lead in organizing.

HUNTER AREA TRAILS COALITION (HATC) – 5 phase plan connecting public and private properties with an 11 mile network of trails from Kaaterskill Falls to Village of Hunter

- DEC Smart Growth grant funded construction on two out of four properties for KRT3, connecting the Mountain Top Historical Society trail head (KRT) to Huckleberry Trail in Tannersville. Worked with DEC on wetlands permit and contractors cutting trail and installing three small footbridges.
- Hunter highway department assessed KRT1 and KRT3 trails on Oct. 5 for maintenance and upkeep. Town highway dept resources will be used to upgrade trail in certain locations.
- KRT1 (at MTHS property) very busy, parking lot full most days.
- Hunter Branch Rail Trail (KRT5) connection to Village of Hunter – town working through permit conditions with DEP. A pedestrian bridge is needed over Clove creek. Town successful getting \$125,000 (Smart Growth and Stream Management Implementation grants), and raised \$21,000 from private donations. Additionally, a memorial fund for a young resident who died tragically in May 2019 named the HATC as the recipient.
- Scouted link between KRT3 and KRT5, with great potential. If successful, this will be the nicest stretch of the whole system!
- Need to work with NYSDOT on roadway crossing (23A, Haines Falls) and share the roadway signs.

Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail, Prattville

- Trail project on DEP land next to Pratt Rock. Town highway mowed couple of times during summer. Town awarded \$6,000 in Sept. for material to build a kiosk structure, small bridge, a boardwalk and have interpretive panel and signage manufactured.
- Phase 2 will connect to trails on the neighboring Pratt Rock property, also known as New York's Mount Rushmore.

Bonnie's Trails, Lexington

- Town and local hiking club working with DEP on land use permit for trail system on S. Beech Ridge Road that traverses two DEP properties. Planning for up to 3 miles of trails that meander through open fields and wooded area, some on former woods roads. Ideal for cross country and leisure walks.

Kaaterskill Clove Working Group Meeting

Meeting Notes

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:00am

Via Zoom

Jeff Senterman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He noted that it had been some time since the Kaaterskill Clove Working Group (KCWG) had met and went over the goals of the KCWG so that everyone involved could be working in the same direction. Jeff noted that:

The KCWG is a subcommittee of the Catskill Park Advisory Committee and the goal of the work group is to improve cooperation and coordination between all parties involved in managing visitors to the Kaaterskill Clove area. In addition to the CPAC, the DEC has established the Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group (CAG) to review, assess and make recommendations on managing high-use and increasing use in the Catskill Park. The efforts of the KCWG and CPAC will help inform the work of the CAG.

Meeting Frequency: A discussion ensued about the scheduling of future meetings and it was agreed that the KCWG would meet every 3 to 4 weeks until at least the beginning of the summer. This will allow for better coordination and collaboration between all involved (Towns, Agencies, NGOs, etc.) as the Clove is getting prepared for what is expected to be a very busy 2021 summer season. It was noted that the KCWG would by necessity have to be the place where ideas are piloted for 2021 implementation because the CAG's recommendations wouldn't come out until the beginning of the summer season.

Town of Hunter Discussion with DEC: Daryl Legg, the Supervisor for the Town of Hunter reported on a discussion he had with Katie Petronis, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources about Kaaterskill Clove. Highlights of that conversation included:

- The need for a greater presence of DEC on the mountaintop and in the Clove including additional DEC law enforcement staff and DEC staff;
- Towing of illegally parked cars needs to continue and DEC will help the town obtain the fencing necessary for the impound lot;
- The closure of the Molly Smith Parking Lot on Route 23a during the peak use season;

- The Town's desire for increasing the DEC parking lots at the top of Kaaterskill Falls (Laurel House and Schutt Road);
- The need for a better social media presence;
- Installation of visual message system (VMS) boards on Route 23a to inform drivers of parking situation; and
- More regular communication moving forward.

In addition, Daryl expressed concern to the DEC about other nearby hotspots located in Palenville and Colgate Lake.

2020 Experiences: DEC Ranger Dawson stated that 2020 was the toughest season he's had in 15 years of work. He said that the enforcement of parking through towing did make a difference. He said that a shuttle system will also make a difference when it can be implemented.

Lt. Haines from the Town of Hunter Police stated that the Department was overwhelmed at first by the sheer number of people/vehicles in the Clove. He said that the Department will be rolling out new measures to help with enforcement and parking tickets. He said that more than 2000 tickets were written in the Clove in 2020. He also noted that the Town, DOT and DEC need to work together to improve the no parking signage throughout the Clove to make it ready for 2021.

2021 Initial Thoughts:

Sean Mahoney and David Kukle (both Town of Hunter Councilman) stated that they support the temporary closure of the Molly Smith Parking Area in the 2021 high-season. They would like to see proactive solutions implemented before the 2021 high-season. They would like to see better signage in the Clove. They would like to get the Town of Catskill more involved in the KCWG and with the efforts to manage visitors to the Clove.

Jeff Rider from the DEC stated that it's clear the number of visitors will continue to grow and that we need to address that use now and have systems implemented for the 2021 summer season.

Sean Mahoney said that we need to get the short-term fixes into place so they work for the 2021 season. He also noted that a really big hot button issue for the public is the trash problems that the visitors generated last year. He would like this group to work on sustainable solutions to managing trash and finding ways to take advantage of those folks who wanted to help take care of the Clove.

Daryl noted that we should be reaching out to local news outlets such as Spectrum News, and have them in the Clove reporting on conditions and providing the public with information on how to responsibly recreate both in the Clove and elsewhere. Jeff Senterman noted that quite a lot of work had been done by the DEC and the Catskill Center at the Blue Hole to reach out to local and regional media, along with bloggers and others who maintain websites with information about the Blue Hole to have it updated with the correct information. Jeff said that it would be helpful to have all involved do the same with Kaaterskill to ensure the proper information is going out in all possible channels.

Future Meetings: Topics for future meetings that were identified included:

- Trash - how do all involved deal with it. How do we organize through existing organizations/VSAs to have trash cleaned up, etc.;
- Communications and Messaging - how do we all work together to ensure that messaging across the board is consistent and getting to the public that needs to see it;
- Dispersal - how can we effectively disperse visitors beyond Kaaterskill Clove without creating hotspots in other locations;
- Thruway Rest Areas - How can we get information about the Clove to visitors before they reach the Clove;
- Media - How do we best connect with and utilize media of all formats to educate visitors prior to arrival; and
- Parking - What parking areas should be expanded, how does that expansion happen, how do we effectively communicate parking conditions in the Clove?

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the KCWG is scheduled for Thursday, February 11th from 3 to 5pm via Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed to all KCWG members prior to the meeting.