

C E L E B R A T I N G

# EARTH DAY

## 2016 HONORING ADIRONDACK PROTECTION & PRESERVATION

*The Adirondack park land use and development plan set forth in this article recognizes the complementary needs of all the people of the state for the preservation of the park's resources and open space character and of the park's permanent, seasonal and transient populations for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong economic base, as well. In support of the essential interdependence of these needs, the plan represents a sensibly balanced apportionment of land to each. Adoption of the land use and development plan and authorization for its administration and enforcement will complement and assist in the administration of the Adirondack park master plan for management of state land. Together, they are essential to the achievement of the policies and purposes of this article and will benefit all of the people of the state.*

*The "Adirondack park" shall include all lands located in the forest preserve counties of the Adirondacks within the following described boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the most southerly corner of lot 166 of the John Glen and 44 Others Patent ...*

*The people of the State of New York have shown a deep and abiding concern for the management and use of state lands in the Adirondacks for over three-quarters of a century. This concern was evidenced by the passage of the "forever wild" amendment to the state constitution in 1894 to prevent the ravages of the Adirondack forests and the dissipation of the state's landholdings, which typified the closing decades of the 19th century.*

**"The lands now or hereafter constituting the Forest Preserve shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private."**  
**-- New York State Legislature, May 15, 1885**

*The agency administers the Adirondack Park Agency (Executive Law, article 27), the Freshwater Wetlands Act (Environmental Conservation Law, article 24) within the Adirondack Park and, for private lands within the Adirondack Park, the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act (Environmental Conservation Law, article 15, title 27).*

*If there is a unifying theme to the master plan, it is that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context as well as their social or psychological aspects are not degraded. This theme is drawn not only from the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Article 27 of the Executive Law - "The Act") and its legislative history, but also from a century of the public's demonstrated attitude toward the forest*

*preserve and the Adirondack Park. Fortunately the amount and variety of land and water within the Adirondack Park provide today and will provide in the future, with careful planning and management, a wide spectrum of outdoor recreational and educational pursuits in a wild forest setting unparalleled in the eastern half of this country.*

*The Adirondack park is abundant in natural resources and open space unique to New York and the eastern United States. The wild forest, water, wildlife and aesthetic resources of the park, and its open space character, provide an outdoor recreational experience of national and international significance. Growing population, advancing technology and an expanding economy are focusing ever-increasing pressures on these priceless resources.*

*Our forefathers saw fit nearly a century ago to provide rigid constitutional safeguards for the public lands in the Adirondack park. Today forest preserve lands constitute approximately forty percent of the six million acres of land in the park. The people of the state of New York have consistently reiterated their support for this time-honored institution.*

*Continuing public concern, coupled with the vast acreages of forest preserve holdings, clearly establishes a substantial state interest in the preservation and development of the park area. The state of New York has an obligation to insure that contemporary and projected future pressures on the park resources are provided for within a land use control framework which recognizes not only matters of local concern but also those of regional and state concern.*

*In the past the Adirondack environment has been enhanced by the intermingling of public and private land. A unique pattern of private land use has developed which has not only complemented the forest preserve holdings but also has provided an outlet for development of supporting facilities necessary to the proper use and enjoyment of the unique wild forest atmosphere of the park. This fruitful relationship is now jeopardized by the threat of unregulated development on such private lands. Local governments in the Adirondack park find it increasingly difficult to cope with the unrelenting pressures for development being brought to bear on the area, and to exercise their discretionary powers to create an effective land use and development control framework.*

**THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE IS TO INSURE OPTIMUM OVERALL CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE UNIQUE SCENIC, AESTHETIC, WILDLIFE, RECREATIONAL, OPEN SPACE, HISTORIC, ECOLOGICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK.**

*A further purpose of this article is to focus the responsibility for developing long-range park policy in a forum reflecting statewide concern. This policy shall recognize the major state interest in the conservation, use and development of the park's resources and the preservation of its open space character, and at the same time, provide a continuing role for local government.*

*There is hereby created in the executive department, the Adirondack park agency.*



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