



Recreational Opportunities on NYC Water Supply Lands and Reservoirs

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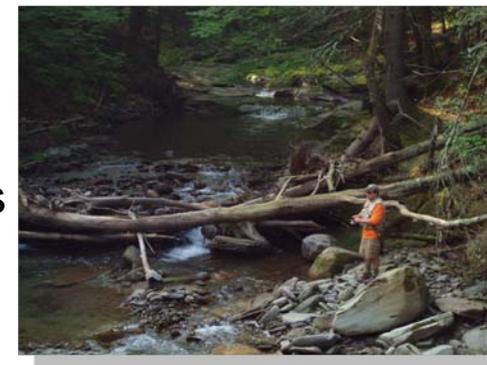
Natural Resources Management

September 14, 2012

Why Recreation?



- Second largest landowner in the Watershed
- Recreational activities *are* compatible with water quality protection
- Contribute to local economies, primarily tourism
- DEP's Strategic Plan
 - “Expand recreational opportunities in the City’s watershed”
- Recreation users - the “eyes and ears”
- Deer hunting as a tool to reduce negative impacts on water supply forests
- Various requirements and obligations through the years

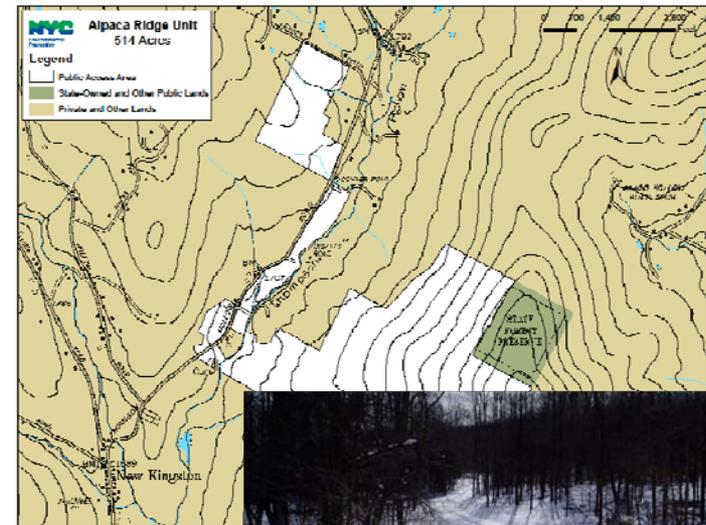




- 1905 Water Supply Act
 - City must provide public access/use for fishing, boating and ice cutting on reservoirs used or built by the City for water supply
 - In accordance with the City's rules to protect the “purity of the water and prevent nuisances...”
 - Silent on lands
- 1997 Memorandum of Agreement
 - When acquiring lands, City will consult with NYSDEC, USEPA, local governments and Sporting Advisory Committees for recommended recreational uses
 - Certain uses, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, snowshoeing, cross county skiing, bird watching, nature study and interpretation “are more likely to be allowed...”
 - Snowmobiling, camping, motorcycling, mountain biking and horseback riding “are not likely to be allowed....”
 - “...undertake comprehensive review of existing and potential recreational uses...”
- Filtration Avoidance Determinations
 - (2007) Included coordinating uses of City lands to meet multiple objectives, including recreation

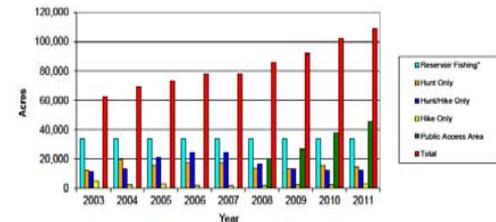
Removing Barriers to Access

- Progression of expanding recreational uses with no negative water quality impacts
- Public Access Areas (PAA) (2008)
- Elimination of DEP Hunt Tags (2009)
- Web-based ability to: (2009)
 - Obtain a new DEP Access Permit
 - Renew DEP Access Permit
 - Update records
- Group Access Permits / Guest Passes
- Maps of all recreation areas on DEP website
- Revision of LUP rules to waive fees
- <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation>



DEP Recreational Opportunities

- Over 118,000 active Access Permits
- Almost 80,000 acres of land open for recreation
 - High percentage of eligible land
- Over 300 recreation units
- Over 46,000 acres are PAA
- All reservoirs (33,000 acres) open for fishing from shore or boat
- Most new properties are PAA, converting “entry by permit” properties to PAA over time
 - Most areas adjacent to reservoirs “entry by permit”
- 1,824 acres of bow hunting only units on Neversink and Ashokan Reservoir
- Out of watershed fishing opportunities
- Recreational Land Use Permits
- Participating in local recreational planning
- Open to new proposals / partnerships



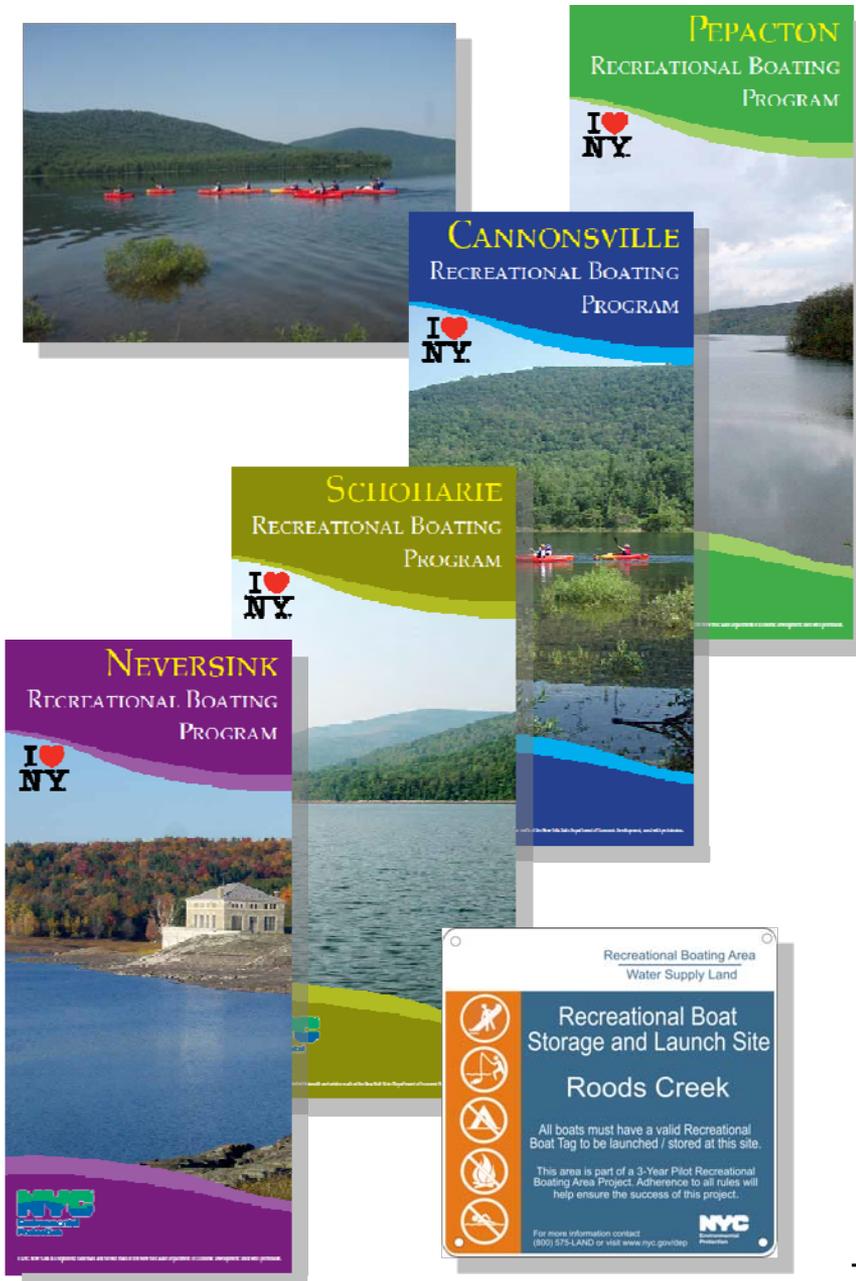
Boating for Fishing

- Over 11,000 boats on City reservoirs
- All boats must obtain a DEP Boat Tag and be steam cleaned
- Small percentage of boats actually being used at any one time
- No negative water quality issues at present
- Large staff resource expenditure to manage
 - 4,142 boats removed and auctioned since 2003
- Annual “Fathers Day” boat auction
- Working on Boat Management Plan
 - Identify ways to minimize administrative burdens and improve user satisfaction



Expanded Boating

- Successful completion of 3-year pilot program on Cannonsville Reservoir
 - Collaborative process with many stakeholders
 - Mark Danvetz is giving a presentation at 3pm today with more details
- Expanded to 3 additional reservoirs in 2012
- All boats must be steam cleaned by private DEP-approved vendors. 13 now active
- YTD stats
 - Almost 1,000 tags issued to date, over ½ are repeat users
 - Kayaks 70%, canoes 25%
 - 44% seasonal tags
 - 68% use Pepacton, 12% Neversink
- Expanded monitoring
- Working on pilot trolling motor use for Cannonsville



Examples of Recreation-Related Permits

- Creamery Pond recreation fields in Windham
- NYSDEC pheasant release
- NYSDEC for fish stocking in reservoirs
- Village of Fleischmanns temporary park
- Fishing access in Ashland
- Boy Scout Trek
- Prattsville “Mud Fest”
- CWC recreation parking areas
- Village of Margaretville
- US Adventure Racing National Championship
- Several permits issued for fund-raising events such as the Harry Chapin Memorial Run Against Hunger
- “History” hikes



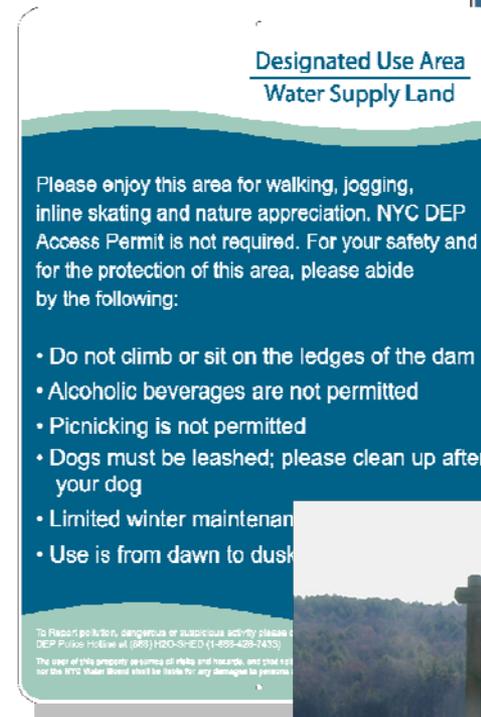
Trails on NYC Lands

- Teatown Reservation
- Angle Fly Preserve
- Finger Lakes Trail
- Town of Andes/Catskill Mountain Club
- Lake Gleneida Trail
- 3 Snowmobile trails
- Working with partners on potential trail system in Margaretville



Designated Use Areas

- Allow access without DEP Access Permits
- Unique areas with infrastructure
- Uses typically include walking, jogging, dogs on leash, roller blading
 - Kensico Dam
 - Davesego Park
 - Waldo Smith Day Use Area (Ashokan Fountain/walkway)
 - Rondout Eagle viewing area



- Deer hunting not only provides recreational opportunities on City land but is an important management tool
- Forests provide the best cover for water quality protection
- Forest management plan completed in 2011 highlighted forest regeneration failure on many lands-primarily due to deer browse
- What are we doing?
 - Expanding areas to deer hunt
 - Bow-only areas
 - Partner with Westchester County
 - DMAP on Ashokan
 - Managed hunts?
 - Sharp-shooting?



- 31% use City land 1-5 times per year
- Fishing from shore is the highest use: 42%
 - Fishing from boat: 30%
 - Big game hunting: 13%
- Westchester County sees the most visits: 28%
 - Delaware: 21%
 - Ulster: 20%
- For fishing, Ashokan Reservoir had the most visits: 15%
 - Pepacton 11%
 - 41% of visits were on east of Hudson reservoirs
- 85% of users reported City lands “Not crowded at all”
- 91% of users were “very aware” land and reservoirs were part of a water supply (0 were unaware)
- 82% of users felt “very safe”





- Agricultural use
 - Over 70 projects. Most allow haying but a few are for maple tapping, row crops and livestock
 - 2,000 acres and 3,249 taps now covered
- Completed first-ever DEP Forest Management Plan in 2011
 - Comprehensive inventory / used to identify areas in need of treatment
 - Will help facilitate targeted projects with greater volumes of timber produced. Local loggers typically bid on these projects
 - Will help DEP plan for and address threats such as Emerald Ash Borer
- Developing pilot project for firewood and bluestone mining on City land

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