



# Natural Resources AND Outdoor Recreation



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



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**The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was founded in 1970 to combine all state programs designed to protect and enhance the environment. DEC’s mission is: “To conserve, improve and protect New York’s natural resources and environment, and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.”**

Many people may be familiar with DEC, but may not know the full scale of the agency’s activities:

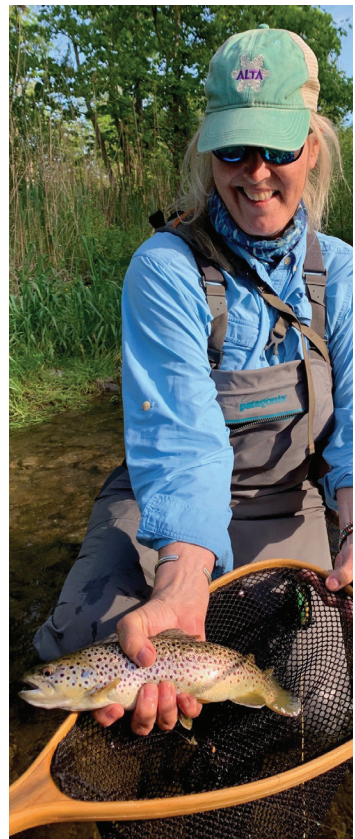
- Preventing pollution and cleaning up contamination;
- Promoting fishing, hunting, camping, birding, and other outdoor activities;
- Managing State Forests and maintaining hiking trails;
- Working with teachers and schools on environmental education;
- Offering summer camps for kids;
- Protecting public safety during forest fires, storms, and floods;
- Rescuing lost or injured hikers;
- Developing strategies to combat and respond to climate change;
- Ensuring everyone has clean air, water, and communities;
- And so much more.













# Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation

DEC is responsible for 5 million acres of public lands and waters across New York. This includes the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, numerous State Forests, Unique Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas, as well as marine access sites, boat launches, hundreds of trailheads, campsites, fishing access sites, picnic areas, and more.

The protection and care of our natural resources is vital to providing opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and abilities to enjoy the outdoors, often close to home. Whether you enjoy fishing on a historic stream, hiking or rock climbing, swimming or boating, snowmobiling, horseback riding trails, birding and nature studies, or simply relaxing in a tent under the stars, our goal is to provide easy, accessible opportunities that will connect people with nature.

With offices located across the state and our website, we make it easy to:

- Purchase a fishing, hunting, trapping, or other sporting license;
- Spend time at a DEC campground in the Adirondacks or Catskills;

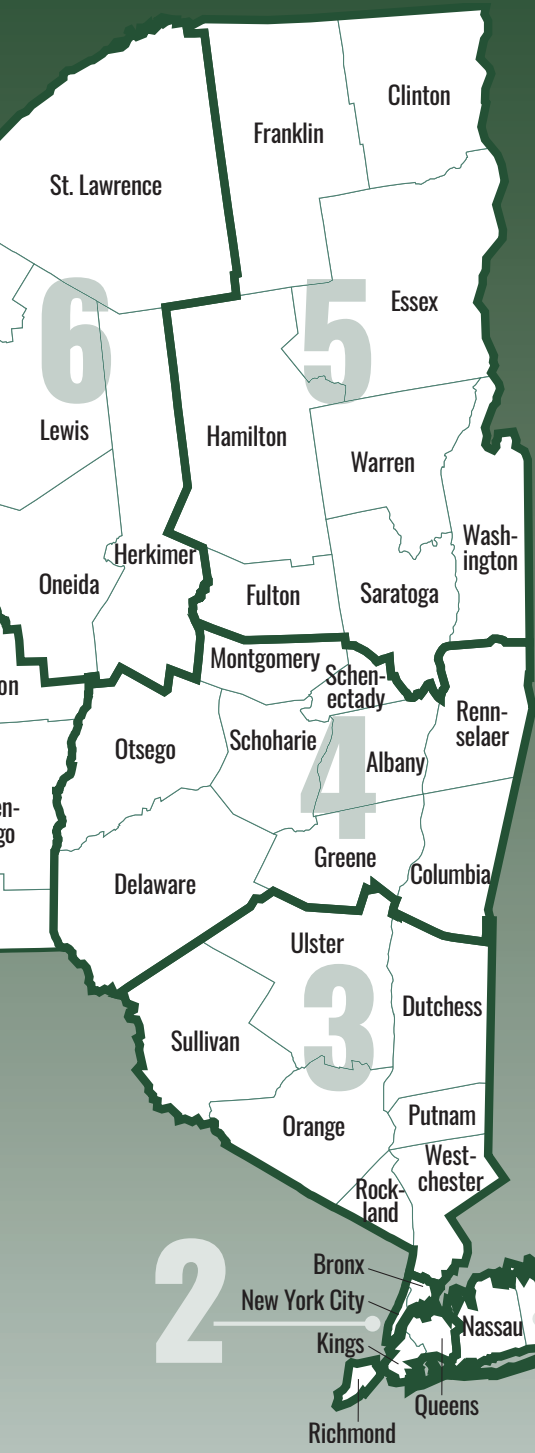
- Experience the joys of birding;
- Learn more about our environment at education centers, fish hatcheries, or youth camps;
- Enjoy a variety of waters through boating, canoeing, or kayaking;
- Plan an accessible adventure for families or friends;
- Spend a day fishing or diving at various locations, including artificial reef sites;
- Try an outdoor activity at one of our annual events or programs;
- And plan other adventures for every season.











**Region 5** (Eastern Adirondacks/  
Lake Champlain – Clinton,  
Essex, Franklin, Fulton,  
Hamilton, Saratoga,  
Warren, and Washington  
counties) **518-897-1200;**  
**r5info@dec.ny.gov**

**Region 4** (Capital Region/  
Northern Catskills – Albany,  
Columbia, Delaware, Greene,  
Montgomery, Otsego,  
Rensselaer, Schenectady,  
and Schoharie counties) **518-357-2068;**  
**r4info@dec.ny.gov**

**Region 3** (Lower Hudson  
Valley – Dutchess, Orange,  
Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan,  
Ulster, and Westchester  
counties) **845-256-3000;**  
**r3info@dec.ny.gov**

**Region 2** (New York City –  
Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan,  
Queens, and Staten Island) **718-482-4900;**  
**r2info@dec.ny.gov**

**Region 1** (Long Island –  
Nassau and Suffolk counties) **631-444-0200;**  
**r1info@dec.ny.gov**



# Important Contacts

## CAMPING RESERVATIONS:

1-800-456-2267 (CAMP) |  
<http://newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com>

## ACCESSIBLE RECREATION:

[accessibility@dec.ny.gov](mailto:accessibility@dec.ny.gov) |  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/34035.html>  
(including information on accessible recreation destinations and access for people with disabilities)

## SPORTING LICENSES:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/96306.html>

## ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS (24-HOUR HOTLINE):

1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267) | [central.dispatch@dec.ny.gov](mailto:central.dispatch@dec.ny.gov)

## FOREST RANGERS:

833-NYS-RANGERS | [rangers@dec.ny.gov](mailto:rangers@dec.ny.gov)  
(law enforcement and emergencies on DEC lands, forest fires, search and rescue)  
**\*\*\* Please call 911 when in need of immediate assistance \*\*\***



Follow [@NYSDEC](https://twitter.com/NYSDEC)  
to recreate responsibly  
and Leave No Trace™.  
[www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/119881.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/119881.html)



## DEC DELIVERS

### Keeping You Connected and Informed

Receive environmental and  
outdoor recreation news via email;  
Select the topics that interest you –  
Sign up at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



[www.dec.ny.gov/about/38590.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/38590.html)

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