



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Adirondack Park and Catskill Park Community Smart Growth Grants

## Round 7 Information Session

**October 25, 2023**

**Presenter: Dylan Walrath, NYS DEC Division of Lands & Forests**

**Co-Administrator: Michelle Higgins, NYS DEC Division of Lands & Forests**

# Adirondack and Catskill Park Visitation

“The Adirondack and Catskill parks are more than vacation spots with vast mountainous and scenic regions of protected lands. The parks are composed of public parklands and private property, with more than 100,000 permanent residents and more than 100 municipal governments and hamlets. Smart growth projects enable the communities in the parks to capitalize on their unique natural settings to improve economic vitality, reinforce the assets of villages and hamlets, and help preserve their heritage.” **DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos.**



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# Grant Overview

Environmental Protection Fund:  
Approximately \$6.8 million since  
2007/08

- \$1.9 million in the Catskill Park
- \$4.9 million in the Adirondack Park

Partnership with NYS  
Department of State and  
Adirondack Park Agency



# Purpose of this Info Session

- New audience: If you didn't get the DEC Delivers or a direct email, please add your name and email in the chat
- Get a head start on planning and partnerships for applications
- Advance knowledge of funding amounts, eligibility requirements, project types and changes from prior rounds
- Answer general questions



*Speculator Village Park*

# Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities (County, Town, Village)
- Not-For-Profit Organizations\*; any (501(c)3 or an environmental/development dedicated 501(c)4



# Eligible Project Location/Area

- Adirondack Park: project must be located within the Blue Line
- Catskill Park: project must be located within a Catskill Park Town



# Minimum / Maximum Amounts

- \$25,000 to \$125,000 standard request
- up to \$300,000 for Transformative Projects



# New in Round 7

- Transformative Projects
  - Higher funding cap
  - Higher award scoring threshold
- Comprehensive Plans - separate scoring rubric to support comp plan applications
- Points for focus on affordable housing





# Funding Restrictions

- Note, there is a cap on the total funding that can be awarded directly to all not-for-profit corporations applying.
- Only 18.378% of total funding this round is available for not-for-profit corporations as lead applicant.  
Approximately \$496,206 within the Adirondack Park and \$183,783 within the Catskill Park is available for not-for-profit corporations as lead applicant.



# Partnerships

- Not-for-profit applicants are **strongly encouraged** to seek project partnerships with their local municipality in which the municipality is the lead applicant.
- Reimbursement will flow to municipality as lead applicant. Munis are not allowed to receive advance payments except for construction projects.
- All not-for-profit lead applicants must obtain a letter of support from an eligible municipality . This is an eligibility requirement to make sure that the proposals are consistent with local comprehensive plans and supported by the local government.



# Grant Award Administration

- Up to 15% of the grant amount.
- Contractual services OR Personal services may be used to contribute grant contract administration, project management, and reporting if applicant personnel do not have the needed capacity to administer a grant award.



Willsboro Pickleball Courts

# Alignment with the Special Conditions of the Adirondack Park or Catskill Park

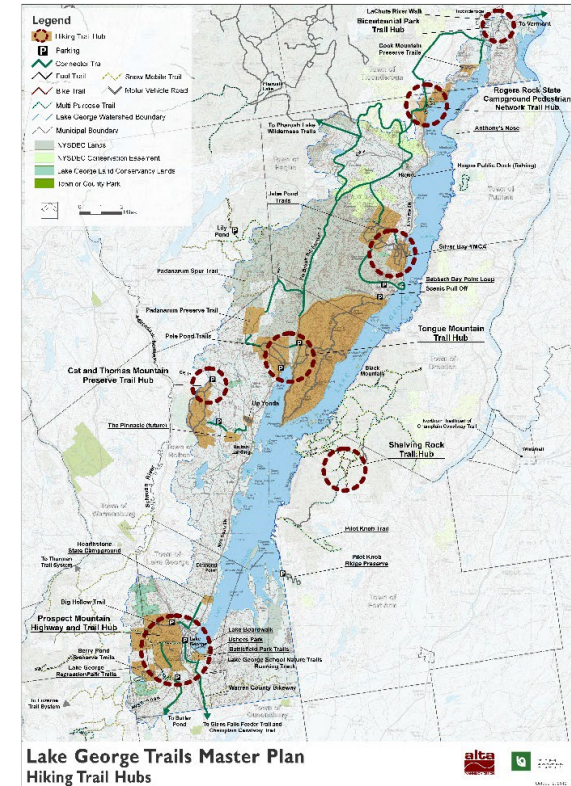
- SWOT analysis
- Public land ownership
- Remote locations, scenic and environmental quality
- Broadband challenges and opportunities
- Recreational, cultural, historic assets
- Housing market challenges
- Waterfront Hamlet-oriented development patterns
- See “Advantage Adirondacks” for examples



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# Program Goals

- Community development, positive Impacts – Quality of life and social impact, tourism, economic impact, moving on previous planning and strategy
- Supporting main streets in villages, hamlets and town centers, including streetscapes, bicycle and pedestrian access
- Encouraging mixed use and adaptive reuse of underutilized buildings and sites
- Enhancing community housing availability
- Improving waterfront access and facilities



Example of a plan for hamlet-connected recreation

# Program Goals Continued

- Ensuring environmental resource protection, including watersheds, habitat, and wetlands
- Enhancing recreation sites and public access, including parks, trails, greenways or blueways
- Protecting and improving scenic resources including viewsheds and scenic byways
- Protecting and managing open space, farmland and working forests
- Promoting and supporting resource-, recreation-, ecological- and heritage-based tourism
- Providing park-based education & interpretive systems
- Building local capacity to engage in community development





# Project Types

- These are general descriptive categories, not scoring categories:
  - Capital Improvements
  - Organizational Development / Capacity Building
  - Cultural, Environmental and Natural Adirondack and Catskill Resources
- Project Advancement or actual implementation related to the above



# Example Eligible Projects, part 1

- Providing bike-friendly routes and amenities
- Improving or promoting local/regional museums and theaters
- Improving main street facades
- Refurbishing historic properties
- Providing community-based tourism programs and activities
- Creating new recreational opportunities
- Developing multi-use trails
- Installing informational signage and kiosks



*Recreational trail systems / signage*





# Example Eligible Projects, part 2

- Enhancing parks and public spaces
- Updating land use laws
- Improving visitor centers
- Beautifying tourism sites
- Providing sidewalks and streetscape enhancements
- Clean-up of contaminated sites and preparation for re-use
- Project-specific feasibility, design, or market planning, and response to climate change
- Energy efficiency assessment and improvement
- Providing shuttle service
- Developing municipal comprehensive plans



*Downtown kiosk in Tannersville*



# Preparing to Apply

Keep in mind:

- cost effectiveness is 20% of score,
- estimates or quotes are required,
- bidding for contractors will involve MWBE outreach,
- no match is required but is optional for points,



# Successful Prior Projects

- We do everything possible to help your project succeed once awarded.
- Go to the [Smart Growth in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park](#) webpage and scroll down to our “List of Prior Awards” to see more examples.



# Thank You

- Dylan Walrath, Presenter
- Michelle Higgins, Co-Administrator
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