Discovering New York's Nature in the Catskill Park

In 1964, New York State began setting aside land in the Catskills to be kept forever as wild forest. Today, the state maintains a boundary around 500,000 acres. The Catskill region is "nature's well" in Greene, Delaware, Sullivan and Ulster counties, and the Catskill Park is open to the public.

The park is a patchwork of public and private land. Nearly two million acres comprise the state forest preserve. New York City owns more than 40,000 acres within the Catskill region—acres that are both public and private. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep. The Catskill region also contains a remnant of the Catskill Park that is owned by the city of New York. The city of New York has been designated as the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Access Permit. The city of New York owns approximately 19,000 acres of the Catskill region—acres that are both public and private. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep.

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Camping in the Catskills

The Catskill region offers water recreation of all kinds, including tubing, swimming and boating. Many DEC campgrounds and fishing spots have launch sites for small boats. Some of the most popular sites for water recreation are listed below. The Catskill region also contains a remnant of the Catskill Park that is owned by the city of New York. The city of New York has been designated as the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Access Permit. The city of New York owns approximately 19,000 acres of the Catskill region—acres that are both public and private. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep.

Fishing in the Catskills

The Catskill region offers more than 300 miles of well-marked and easily accessible trails, varying in length from less than a mile to a 94-mile section of the Long Trail. The Catskill region also contains a remnant of the Catskill Park that is owned by the city of New York. The city of New York has been designated as the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Access Permit. The city of New York owns approximately 19,000 acres of the Catskill region—acres that are both public and private. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep.

Accessible Adventures

With a little imagination and some simple supplies, you can enjoy the Catskill region's diversity of fun and scenic vistas. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep.

Planning Your Catskill Adventure

Discover the remote mountain villages, beautiful views, and steep river valleys that have made the Catskills a favorite tourist destination for generations. The Catskill region offers more than 300 miles of well-marked and easily accessible trails, varying in length from less than a mile to a 94-mile section of the Long Trail. The Catskill region also contains a remnant of the Catskill Park that is owned by the city of New York. The city of New York has been designated as the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Access Permit. The city of New York owns approximately 19,000 acres of the Catskill region—acres that are both public and private. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep.

Water for the Big Apple...

Providing Great Places for Recreation

New York City gets nearly 90 percent of its drinking water from the Ashokan, Roundout, Cannonsville, Catskill, Pepacton, and Ashokan state forest preserve lands in the Catskill region. To protect that water, the city owns more than 120,000 acres of land around those reservoirs, including more than 40,000 acres in the Catskill Park.

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Boating and Water Recreation in the Catskills

The Catskill region offers challenging mountain biking trail networks amidst the Catskill region's diverse terrain. The Catskill region also contains a remnant of the Catskill Park that is owned by the city of New York. The city of New York has been designated as the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Access Permit. The city of New York owns approximately 19,000 acres of the Catskill region—acres that are both public and private. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep.

Watchable Wildlife

Whether you’re visiting the mountains or just traveling through, you’ll encounter some of the wild creatures that make the Catskills an exciting place to visit. The Catskill region also contains a remnant of the Catskill Park that is owned by the city of New York. The city of New York has been designated as the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) Access Permit. The city of New York owns approximately 19,000 acres of the Catskill region—acres that are both public and private. For more information, contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) at 845-439-4810 or http://www.nyc.gov/dep.
Wilderness – About 143,000 acres
These areas, accessible by foot only, offer exceptional places for solitude in remote forest settings. Motor vehicles and bicycles are not allowed.

Wild Forest – About 130,000 acres
These areas provide settings for a wide range of recreation, including hiking, camping, cross-country skiing and mountain biking. Some areas have snowmobile and horse trails.

State Recreation Areas – About 6,000 acres
These include Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, campgrounds and day-use areas. All offer picnicking, and some offer swimming, fishing and car-top boat launches.

NOTICE: This map is intended as an overview of places for recreation on NYS Forest Preserve and NY City-owned lands within and near the Catskill Park. It is not a trail or land-use map. The information on it has been compiled from many sources and verified wherever possible. However, DEC does not guarantee its accuracy and is not liable for its use for any purpose. Detailed information about specific NYS Forest Preserve and NYC-owned lands is available at DEC or NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offices and on-line at www.dec.ny.gov or www.nyc.gov/dep respectively. Trail conditions and land ownership may change. Particular caution is advised where a trail crosses private land. Always check with the landowner and consult with the local DEC or DEP office prior to using any trail which crosses private land.

The Preserve Within the Park

Many people think the Catskill Forest Preserve and the Catskill Park are the same thing, but they’re not. The Catskill Park is a mix of public and private land, defined by the “blue line,” a boundary the state established in 1904. The preserve is state-owned land that is protected as “forever wild” within the park.

Preserve lands include:
- Wilderness – About 143,000 acres
- Wild Forest – About 130,000 acres
- State Recreational Areas – About 6,000 acres

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5265.html