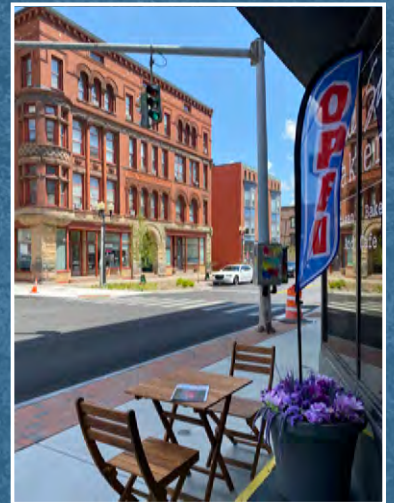
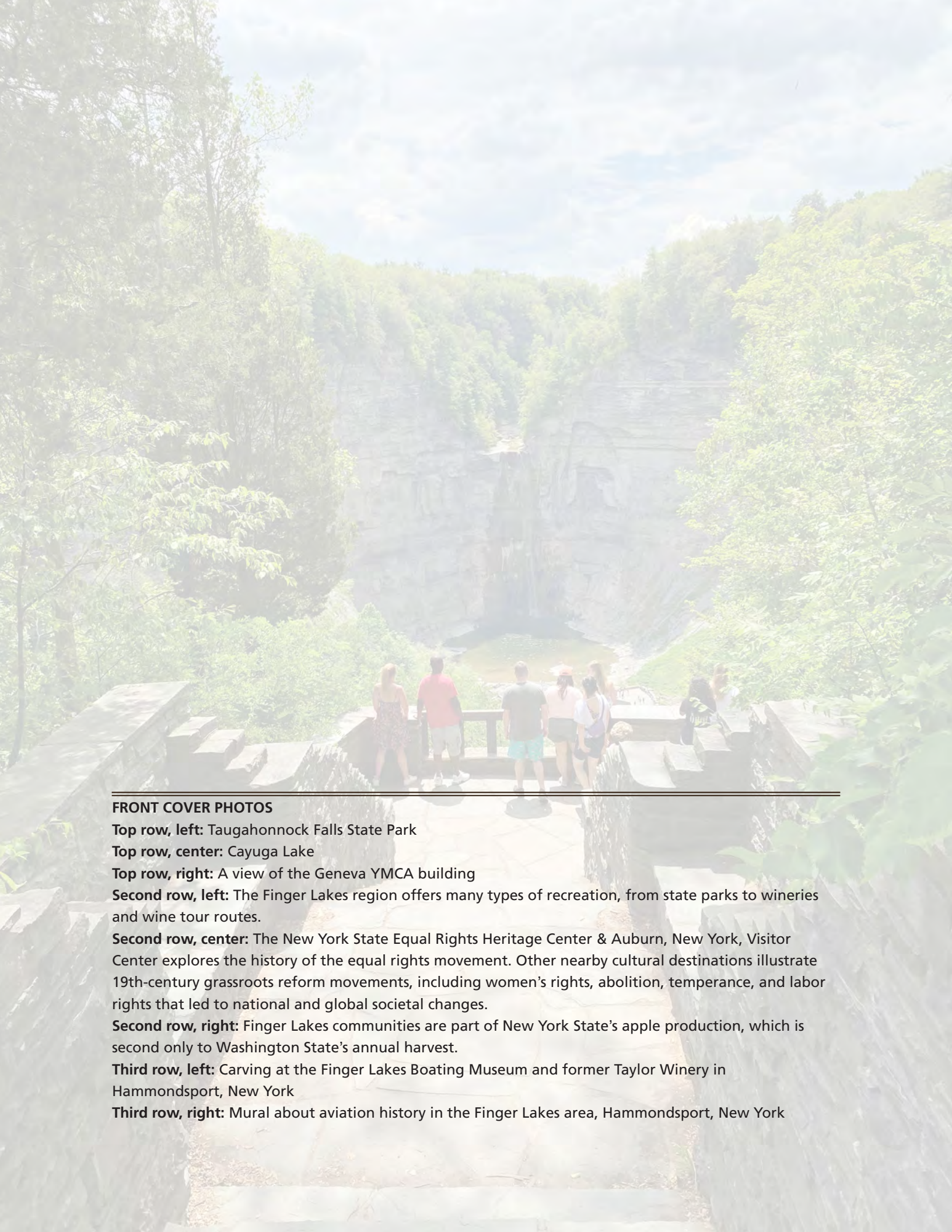




Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

2023





FRONT COVER PHOTOS

Top row, left: Taugahonnock Falls State Park

Top row, center: Cayuga Lake

Top row, right: A view of the Geneva YMCA building

Second row, left: The Finger Lakes region offers many types of recreation, from state parks to wineries and wine tour routes.

Second row, center: The New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center & Auburn, New York, Visitor Center explores the history of the equal rights movement. Other nearby cultural destinations illustrate 19th-century grassroots reform movements, including women's rights, abolition, temperance, and labor rights that led to national and global societal changes.

Second row, right: Finger Lakes communities are part of New York State's apple production, which is second only to Washington State's annual harvest.

Third row, left: Carving at the Finger Lakes Boating Museum and former Taylor Winery in Hammondsport, New York

Third row, right: Mural about aviation history in the Finger Lakes area, Hammondsport, New York



Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), has prepared this national heritage area feasibility study to determine if the Finger Lakes study area meets criteria of eligibility for designation as a national heritage area (NHA). This study meets the requirements of the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019) and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The Finger Lakes are a chain of narrow lakes found in west-central New York State that, to some, resemble marks left from a huge hand swiping across the landscape. The 11 lakes roughly stretch from Syracuse to Rochester and were once north-to-south flowing rivers that were dammed by glaciers' retreat during the last Ice Age. The region is the heart of New York State's farmland between the Adirondacks and the Genesee Plateau and is defined by its small towns and the agricultural fields and microclimates that rim the lakes.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In 2019, Congress passed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9). Section 6003 of the "Dingell Act" directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating a 14-county study area (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates) as a national heritage area. The Secretary of the Interior delegated preparation of the study to the National Park Service. The goal of the study was to determine if the study area meets the designation criteria established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019).

A copy of the law authorizing the study can be found in appendix A.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Extensive public outreach was conducted during the study process. The NPS study team relied on virtual methods of public engagement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Park Service hosted virtual focus group conversations with residents and local stakeholders from each of the study area's 14 counties in May 2020. The NPS study team requested and received assistance from the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to identify participants and schedule the focus group. These discussions allowed NPS team members to hear directly from representatives of state, county, and local agencies, local historians, heritage tourism professionals, members of the business community, and others and to gather information about the resources found within the Finger Lakes study area. During the 90-day public comment period from March 1 to June 1, 2021, NPS staff made 24 presentations to local government public meetings, lake associations, historians, and other groups to increase public understanding of national heritage areas and encouraged citizens to participate in the National Park Service's study process. During these meetings and on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system website, the National Park Service shared an interactive online ArcGIS StoryMap and walked the public through the study's purpose and the draft context study's information. From March 1, 2021, through June 1, 2021, draft versions of a "context study" (chapter 2 of this report), potential themes (chapter 4), and a partial resource inventory (appendix B) were available for public review via the project's PEPC website. Public comments were collected via the PEPC site and through a link included on the StoryMap.

The National Park Service received a total of 412 correspondences through the project website and from e-mailed comments, mailed letters, and StoryMap comments.. Of the total number of correspondences received, 172 were direct responses to the survey questions and 240 were resolutions or open-ended letters and e-mail correspondence providing opinions or feedback (edits or comments) on the historic context report. Comments were received from every county in the 14-county study area, from New York residents outside of the study area and from out-of-state respondents. Thirty-seven of the correspondences received were adopted resolutions in support of the national heritage area designation. These resolutions were received from various local towns/cities/villages, municipal organizations, local counties, planning and development boards, and organizations/associations. In addition, correspondences were received from businesses and various types of organizations, both within and outside of the 14-county New York study area. Like the resolutions received from local governments, most letters expressed support for the designation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes. Resolutions are included in appendix C, and letters of support from businesses and organizations are presented in appendix D.

STUDY FINDINGS

The feasibility study team used 10 evaluation criteria for a potential NHA designation based on the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019) to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of creating a Finger Lakes national heritage area (table 1). The study team identified numerous resources in the study area that collectively represent an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships, therefore meeting criterion 1. Continuing agricultural practices, foodways, conservation ethics and social progressivism, and a regional identity represent customs and traditions related to the area's distinctive landscape that are a valuable part of the national story and, therefore, the study area meets criterion 2.

The study area's potential for future conservation, educational, and recreational opportunities meets NHA criteria 3 and 4. Resources related to themes identified in this feasibility study retain a level of integrity that supports interpretation and therefore meet criterion 5.

The study team finds that criteria 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are met because of local support and the continuing efforts of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, a local tourism nonprofit representing the 14-county study area that was also identified as the potential local coordinating entity.

As a result, the Finger Lakes study area identified in the study legislation appears to meet the 10 national heritage area evaluation criteria and is found eligible according to NPS guidelines for potential national heritage areas.

Table 1. NHA Feasibility Study Criteria Summary

Criteria	Meets Criteria
Criterion 1: An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.	Yes
Criterion 2: The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.	Yes
Criterion 3: The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.	Yes
Criterion 4: The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.	Yes
Criterion 5: Resources that are important to the identified theme(s) of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.	Yes
Criterion 6: Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.	Yes
Criterion 7: The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.	Yes
Criterion 8: The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.	Yes
Criterion 9: A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.	Yes
Criterion 10: The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.	Yes

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Chapter 1

Introduction



wish you were here



wish you were here.

Photo, Front and Back

Storefronts on E. Genesee Street in downtown Skaneateles, New York



Chapter 1: Introduction

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Finger Lakes are a chain of 11 narrow lakes found in west-central New York. The lakes roughly stretch from Syracuse to Rochester and were once north-to-south flowing rivers that were dammed by the retreat of glaciers during the last Ice Age. The region represents the majority of New York State’s farmland between the Adirondacks and the Genesee Plateau and is defined by its small towns and the agriculturally rich soil and microclimate that rim the lakes. From west to east, the 11 Finger Lakes are:

- Conesus Lake
- Hemlock Lake
- Canadice Lake
- Honeoye Lake
- Canandaigua Lake
- Keuka Lake
- Seneca Lake
- Cayuga Lake
- Owasco Lake
- Skaneateles Lake
- Otisco Lake

PURPOSE OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The purpose of this national heritage area (NHA) feasibility study is to determine whether an assemblage of historic sites and resources in Central New York meets the feasibility criteria for the Finger Lakes study area to be eligible for the designation as a national heritage area. The Secretary of the Interior delegated preparation of the study to the National Park Service (NPS), as directed by Congress in section 6003 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9). The section of the act pertaining to the Finger Lakes can be found in appendix A of this document.

STUDY AREA

The study area for the potential Finger Lakes national heritage area stretches from Syracuse to Rochester, reaching from Lake Ontario to the New York-Pennsylvania border (figure 1). In the feasibility study legislation, Congress identified 14 New York counties that would comprise the study area. The 14 counties named in the Finger Lakes national heritage area study area are:

- Cayuga
- Chemung
- Cortland
- Livingston
- Monroe
- Onondaga
- Ontario
- Schuyler
- Seneca
- Steuben
- Tioga
- Tompkins
- Wayne
- Yates

The legislation also directed the study team to consider other areas in the state that are similar to, adjacent to, or in the vicinity of those counties. As directed by the legislation, this study considered the 14 counties as well as areas in New York counties suggested during civic outreach and via public comments and during the resource analysis and evaluation of NHA criteria.

DEFINITION OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

According to NPS testimony given before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, House Resource Committee on October 26, 1999, and repeated in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*:

A National Heritage Area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make national heritage areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of national heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.

National heritage areas are managed by a local entity in partnership with various stakeholders and partners. These stakeholders and partners include individual citizens; local, state, federal, and Native nation governments; and nonprofit and business sector groups. Together, these entities work to preserve the integrity of the area's distinct landscape and local stories so that current and future generations understand this relationship to the land.

Using this approach, national heritage areas are partially based on their constituents' pride in their history and traditions and their interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting their special landscapes. Heritage areas work across political boundaries to collaboratively shape a plan for preserving the area's unique and distinct qualities.

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system nor is any of its land owned or managed by the National Park Service, unless such land was previously set aside as a unit of the national park system. If land within the established boundaries of a national heritage area is owned by the federal



Figure 1. The Finger Lakes study area

government, it is as a result of other legislation establishing a military installation, national forest, or other federal property. However, the designation of a national heritage area does not preclude the creation of new national park system units within the area boundaries.

The federal government does not acquire land, manage land, or change land use controls through the creation of a national heritage area. Rather, national heritage areas accomplish their goals through partnerships with governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals. The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas. The National Park Service is a partner and advisor; decision-making authority is retained by the local people.

The heritage area designation process often begins with a community-based initiative to seek federal recognition as an official national heritage area. The first step in this process is called a feasibility study, which in this case was authorized by Congress through the urging of local community members. A feasibility study examines a region's history and resources and provides a strong foundation for success as a national heritage area if determined to be eligible. The Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service (as the federal body charged with administering the National Heritage Areas Program) are usually tasked by Congress to conduct these studies and attest to whether a region has the resources and local financial and organizational capacity to carry out the responsibilities that come with designation. Based on the study findings, the Secretary of the Interior may make a recommendation to Congress through committee testimony. Should the secretary recommend designation of a Finger Lakes national heritage area, congressional

legislation would still be necessary to designate it a national heritage area. The ultimate determination of national heritage area designation is made by Congress.

For more information on national heritage areas, visit: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/>.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Criterion 8 states that “The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.” In other words, a designation itself would not interfere with the existing business and trade activities of the region. In general, national heritage area designation has been shown to assist in improving local, regional, and state economic conditions and often augments existing heritage tourism activities. According to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, some of the benefits include leveraging federal dollars with local support, increasing community partnerships, conserving resources that make the region unique, improving quality of life, and creating sustainable economic strategies. Additional sales, jobs, payroll, and taxes paid to local governments may result from heritage area programs and projects. Multiple economic impact studies have been conducted for designated national heritage areas, including a 2015 case study of the economic impacts of New York's Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor that found that the between 2012 and 2014, the established heritage area generated \$307.7 million in economic impact, supported 3,240 jobs, and generated \$34.9 million in tax revenue.¹

¹ Tripp Umbach, “Economic Impact of National Heritage Areas: A Case Study of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor,” 2015, 4.

National heritage areas represent a legislated commitment to expanding the economic benefits of heritage tourism. The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines heritage tourism as “travelling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present.” According to an often-cited national research study on US cultural and heritage travel by conducted by Mandala Research in 2009, 78% of all US leisure travelers participate in cultural and/or heritage activities while traveling, translating to 118.3 million adults each year. Cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average, \$994 per trip compared to \$611 for all US travelers. The national trust also acknowledges that “perhaps the biggest benefits of cultural heritage tourism, though, are diversification of local economics and preservation of a community’s unique character.”²

COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

National heritage areas expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship. They typically support community-based initiatives that connect citizens to the preservation and planning processes of local heritage stewardship. Through the efforts of a local coordinating entity, numerous stakeholders come together to improve the regional quality of life through the protection of the national heritage area’s cultural and natural resources. This cooperative approach also allows national heritage areas to achieve both conservation goals and economic growth in ways that are consistent with the local conservation vision and ongoing economic activities.

2 National Trust for Historic Preservation, “Cultural Heritage Tourism 2010 Fact Sheet,” February 2010, <https://ctmainstreet.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/C-2010-CHT-FactSheet.pdf>.

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system. National Park Service involvement in national heritage area activities is advisory in nature, and the agency does not make management decisions. Via the designation by Congress, the local management entity is tasked with developing a management plan that addresses federal requirements for the national heritage area. The National Park Service assists the local management entity in this development, with the plan ultimately approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Each heritage area is created under a unique authorizing law; therefore, management plan requirements often differ. Technical assistance and federal financial assistance are available under the Heritage Partnership Program via cooperative agreements with the National Park Service.

The designation of a national heritage area does not grant the federal government or any associated management entity the authority to regulate land, land uses, or property rights. The land use, zoning, and development controls of private property do not change with the action to designate a national heritage area. Participation in projects associated with the national heritage area program is always voluntary.

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS

This national heritage area feasibility study has been prepared with the direction provided by the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*.³ These guidelines provide a process to evaluate the feasibility of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes region. In general, the objectives of this

3 National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines, 2019. https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/NHA-Feasibility-Study-Guidelines_FINAL-Revisions-2019_508-compliant.pdf.

feasibility study, as related to the Finger Lakes study area, are to:

- Identify and define the geographic extent of the Finger Lakes study area that will be the primary focus of the feasibility study research, documentation, and inventory.
- Evaluate the local interest in the development of a national heritage area.
- Identify an interpretive thematic framework for understanding how the resources in the Finger Lakes study area contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape.
- Inventory and evaluate the potential of resources in the study area to support the historic themes associated with the Finger Lakes.
- Verify whether or not there is public support and a strong local commitment by a management entity to manage a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes region.
- Determine if the Finger Lakes study area meets all 10 criteria to be eligible as a potential national heritage area (see criteria listed below).

The above overall objectives of the feasibility study were completed through a step-by-step process that incorporated input from the public, local groups and elected officials, and subject matter experts. As the feasibility study developed, additional resource inventories and documentation were gathered to provide a more complete understanding of all the resources that may contribute to a nationally distinctive landscape associated with the study area. The feasibility study process included the following phases:

- Information gathering and public input
 - identified the study area's contribution to a national heritage using information provided by the public, site managers, and subject matter experts
 - drafted a narrative that explores the national importance of the study area and how it contributes to our national heritage
 - developed themes that provide a framework for interpretation and focused the feasibility study efforts on resources that can support these themes
 - conducted virtual public outreach to gather additional information on study area resources, existing heritage tourism efforts and organizations, and the potential local management entity
 - conducted an inventory and site research into the resources that have the potential to support the identified themes and which collectively form a nationally distinctive landscape
- Preparation of feasibility study
 - developed a feasibility study for internal NPS NHA program review
 - refined the feasibility study based on NPS feedback
- Completion of study and transmittal document
 - made a final determination as to whether the collection of resources in the study area meets the ten criteria for evaluation of potential national heritage area designation

- transmittal of this report to the Secretary of the Interior and then Congress for consideration

10 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A POTENTIAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

As identified above, this feasibility study includes an analysis and documentation that determines feasibility based on the 10 criteria established by the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. Chapter 5 of this feasibility study contains a detailed explanation of these criteria and discusses how the assemblage of sites in the feasibility study area relates to each criterion. This analysis provides the basis for determining the eligibility of designation as a national heritage area. The 10 evaluation criteria are as follows:

1. The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities and by contributing diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.
2. The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.
3. The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.
4. The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.
5. Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.
6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area that are involved in the planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.
7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.
8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.
9. The public supports a conceptual boundary map.
10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

In addition to the 10 criteria outlined in the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the legislation directing the preparation of the feasibility study also provided direction on how the study area was to be evaluated. However, the direction provided in the Dingell Act generally correspond to the 10 NPS criteria. Below is a table showing the 2019 NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criteria alongside the authorizing legislation's requirements. For consistency in presentation of NPS studies, the NPS study team prepared the study document following the outline presented in the 2019 NHA guidelines, but table 2 below demonstrates consistency between the study's authorizing legislation on the left and the NHA guidelines on the right.

Table 2. National Heritage Feasibility Study Requirements

PL 116-9 Section 6003 (b)(2), subparts (A)-(G)	NPS National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines
<p>The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—</p> <p>(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—</p> <p>(i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;</p> <p>(ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and</p> <p>(iii) would be best managed—</p> <p>(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and</p> <p>(II) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;</p>	<p>1. An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;</p>
<p>(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;</p>	<p>2. Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story;</p>
<p>(C) provides outstanding opportunities—</p> <p>(i) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and</p> <p>(ii) for recreation and education;</p>	<p>3. Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and /or scenic features;</p> <p>4. Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;</p>
<p>(D) contains resources that—</p> <p>(i) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and</p> <p>(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;</p>	<p>5. The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;</p>

PL 116-9 Section 6003 (b)(2), subparts (A)-(G)	NPS National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines
<p>(E) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that—</p> <p>(i) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area;</p> <p>(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and</p> <p>(iii) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Heritage Area;</p>	<p>6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area;</p>
<p>(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the Heritage Area ...</p>	<p>7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area; and</p> <p>10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.</p>
<p>... while encouraging State and local economic activity; and</p>	<p>8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area;</p>
<p>(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.</p>	<p>9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public;</p>

COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

This feasibility study complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which mandates all federal agencies to analyze the impacts of major federal actions that have a significant effect on the environment. The NPS guidance for addressing this act is set forth in Director’s Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*, which outlines several options for meeting the act, depending on the severity of the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

A “categorical exclusion for which no formal documentation is necessary” was selected as the most appropriate NEPA pathway for this feasibility study. The feasibility study is excluded from requiring an environmental assessment because it matches one of the categories that under normal circumstances has no potential for impacts to the human environment. The categorical exclusion selected states:

Legislative proposals of an administrative or technical nature (including such things as changes in

authorizations for appropriations and minor boundary changes and land title transactions) or having primarily economic, social, individual, or institutional effects; and comments and reports on referrals of legislative proposals. (43 CFR § 46.210)

This feasibility study is consistent with this categorical exclusion because it was directed by Congress to determine if this area meets the feasibility requirement for designation as a national heritage area. In essence, this feasibility study is a report on a legislative proposal. If Congress decides to designate the feasibility study area as a national heritage area, then a comprehensive management plan would be developed for the area. Depending on the types of projects, programs, and other actions proposed in that management plan, an environmental assessment may be necessary at that time.

THE STUDY TEAM

An interdisciplinary team of NPS staff, including community planners, cultural resource specialists, and natural resource specialists was assembled to conduct this feasibility study. NPS National Heritage Areas Program representatives for the Northeast Regional Office/Unified Department of Interior Region 1 and the National Program Office also contributed to the feasibility study findings. Subject matter experts and historians familiar with New York, Native nations, and the Finger Lakes were called on to provide perspectives and related sources and review and provide comments on draft historic context and nationally important themes.

A local stakeholder group consisting of representatives of state, county, and local

agencies, historians, heritage tourism professionals, and members of the business community actively participated in the information gathering portion of the feasibility study process. Given unanticipated travel restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the NPS study team requested the help of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to organize 14 virtual two-hour focus groups in May 2020, one for each county in the study area. The National Park Service asked that each focus group be composed of stakeholders knowledgeable about the county's resources in a way that related to some aspect of the feasibility study's criteria. The focus groups were one-time, early data-gathering forums in May 2020 that did not develop into standing committees or an advisory group throughout the study process. Participants in the 14 county-based focus groups were selected by the Alliance board for their local knowledge related to natural resources, cultural resources, local traditions/lifeways, county history, recreational opportunities, educational opportunities, and/or the economic benefits of heritage tourism in their county.

During 14 two-hour sessions, an identical format for each county in the study area, NPS facilitators shared a brief presentation providing background on the National Heritage Areas Program. Following the presentation, NPS staff engaged with participants in an informal conversation about the Finger Lakes area and resources found within each county related to the distinctive landscape.

Members of the following agencies, organizations, offices, and educational institutions participated in the focus group discussions:

-
- Americana Winery
 - ARTS Council of the Southern Tier
 - Beachcomber of Conesus Lake
 - Bristol Mountain Ski Resort
 - CK Cellars
 - Campground Owners of New York
 - Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce
 - Captain Bill’s Seneca Lake Cruises
 - Cayuga County Historian
 - Cayuga County Parks and Trails
 - Cayuga County Visitors Bureau
 - Cayuga Economic Development Agency
 - Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway, Inc.
 - Central New York Arts
 - Chemung Valley History Museum
 - Clemens Center
 - Clute Park and Campground
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension-
Chemung County
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension-
Schuyler County
 - Conesus Campground
 - Cornell University-School of
Hotel Administration
 - Corning Community College
 - Corning’s Gaffer District
 - Cortland City Council
 - Cortland County Convention and
Visitors Bureau
 - Cortland County Historical Society
 - Cortland County Legislature
 - Deer Run Winery
 - Downtown Elmira
 - Downtown Ithaca Alliance
 - Early Oswego Antique Center
 - Eldridge Park
 - Elmira College-Center for Mark
Twain Studies
 - Embassy Suites at Destiny USA
 - Enfield Manor Bed & Breakfast
 - Finger Lakes Community College
 - Finger Lakes Economic
Development Center
 - Finger Lakes National Forest
 - Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
 - Ganondagan State Historic Site
 - Glenora Wine Cellars
 - Historic Palmyra
 - Keuka College
 - Keuka Lake State Park
 - Lemoyne College
 - Letchworth Gateway Villages
 - Liberty House Bed & Breakfast
 - Lime Hollow Nature Center
 - Livingston County Board of Directors
 - Livingston County
Downtown Coordinator
 - Long Acre Farms
 - Lyons Main Street Program
 - Monroe Community College
 - Monroe County Historian
 - Monroe County Parks
 - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
 - National Women’s Hall of Fame
 - New York State Parks – Finger
Lakes Region

- Newark Valley Historical Society
- Onondaga County Office of the Environment
- Ontario County Administrator
- Ontario County Historian
- Oak Hill Bulk Foods
- Owl Gorge Productions
- Preservation Architects
- Ranger Outfitters
- The Rivers Organization
- Rochester Museum & Science Center
- Rochester Public Market
- SamSen Marina
- Schuyler County Historical Society
- Seneca County Historian
- Seneca County Manager
- Seneca Falls Heritage and Tourism Center/Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry
- Seneca Lake Wine Trail
- Seward House Museum
- Sodus Bay Lighthouse
- Steuben County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Steuben County Historical Society
- Stony Brook State Park
- Tioga County Arts Council
- Tioga County Economic Development & Planning
- Tioga County Historical Society
- Tioga County Tourism
- Tioga Downs Casino Resort
- Tompkins County Historian

- Town of Canandaigua
- Village and Town of Homer
- Village of Lyons
- Visit Ithaca
- Visit Rochester
- Visit Syracuse
- Watkins Glen Promotions
- Wells College
- Yates Art Center
- Yates County Historian

Participants in the virtual May 2020 county-specific focus groups provided the NPS study team with valuable information early in the study process about a variety of study area resources. Through this collaborative effort, additional resource data and information on the study area were incorporated into this feasibility study.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Despite the ongoing public health emergency and restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, extensive public outreach was conducted during the study process. During the spring and summer of 2021, a series of public announcements and meetings served to increase public understanding of national heritage areas and encouraged citizens to participate in the National Park Service’s study process. Open public engagement was fundamental to every step of this feasibility study process. Ultimately, the reason for such an integrated public involvement approach is that a future national heritage area designation would require strong support and active participation from its local citizens.

To achieve this goal, a public involvement strategy was developed to:

- Promote public understanding of national heritage areas and how they are managed.
- Inform the public about the study and maximize their participation in the process.
- Assess public support for a national heritage area designation.
- Determine if there is local capacity and commitment to coordinate a future national heritage area.

Public involvement during the study process included the following:

- **Focus group discussions (May–June 2020).** In coordination with the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, the NPS study team led 14 virtual focus group meetings to gather information about the Finger Lakes region’s contributions to the national story, potential themes, study area resources, and examples of cultural heritage unique to the area. These virtual conversations are also described above.
- **Virtual civic engagement and public comment (March 1–June 1, 2021).** An online survey posted on the project’s NPS website and an interactive ArcGIS StoryMap allowed anyone interested in the feasibility study and/or Finger Lakes resources to provide input on the important sites, stories and themes, customs and traditions associated with the region, recreational opportunities, potential NHA coordinating entities, air issues or concerns about a potential NHA designation, and review a draft of

the study area historic context. These efforts were announced via press release to local and regional media. The press release provided information about the story map, which provided direct links to the project website and survey.

- **Public information sessions (March–June 2021).** NPS study team members presented virtual presentations at local government, regional government, and area nonprofit meetings to provide opportunities for the National Park Service to speak directly to residents and many elected officials and government staff in communities and counties throughout the 14-county Finger Lakes region. The National Park Service’s strategy relied as much as possible on public meetings compliant with New York State’s Open Meetings Law as well as presentations to regional and local organizations that could help spread the word broadly beyond those in attendance. Groups that invited NPS study team members to participate in scheduled meetings included:

- 9 individual county governments,
- 1 multicounty government planning group,
- 2 regional planning councils,
- 1 city government,
- 8 watershed/lake associations, and
- 3 nongovernmental organizations.

See appendix E for a summary of the spring 2021 public comments and table 3 for a summary of the public outreach activities.

Letters of Support

Thirty-six of the correspondences received were adopted resolutions in support of the national heritage area designation. These resolutions were received from various local towns/cities/villages, municipal organizations, local counties, planning and development boards, and organizations/associations. All of these resolutions articulated support for the designation of a Finger Lakes national heritage area, and many of them expressed support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance administering the national heritage area as the local coordinating entity. Resolutions were received from the following entities (appendix C):

- Board of Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
- Board of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
- Board of Supervisors Seneca County
- Board of the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau
- Board of the Town of Montezuma
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
- Chemung County Legislature
- City of Geneva
- Conesus Lake Association
- Cortland County Legislature
- County Legislature of Onondaga County
- Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council
- Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association
- Keuka Lake Association
- Ontario County Board of Supervisors
- Schuyler County Legislature
- Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
- Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
- Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce
- Smith Center for the Arts
- Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board
- Steuben County Legislature
- Tioga County Local Development Corporation
- Tioga County Planning Board
- Tompkins County Legislature
- Town of Candor Planning Board
- Town of Montour
- Town of Reading
- Village of Aurora
- Village of Burdett
- Village of Trumansburg
- Village of Union Springs Board
- Village of Watkins Glen Board of Trustees
- Wayne County Board of Supervisors
- Yates County Country Cooperative
- Yates County Legislature

In addition, correspondences were received from businesses and various types of nonprofits and organizations, the majority of which were within but some outside of the 14-county New York study area. Like the resolutions passed by local governments, most of these letters expressed support for the designation of a national heritage area in the Finger

Lakes, and many indicated support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as a local coordinating entity. Letters of support for designation were also received from members of state and national representatives and senators. The following entities sent correspondences representing a variety of views (see appendix D):

- Backbone Ridge History Group
- Bristol Hills Historical Society
- Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce
- Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association
- Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway
- Chemung County Chamber of Commerce
- Chemung County Historical Society
- Conesus Lake Association
- Congress of the United States, House of Representatives
- Cornell Botanic Gardens
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Steuben County
- Corning Area Chamber of Commerce
- Corning Gaffer District
- Corning Museum of Glass
- Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council
- Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
- Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association
- Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex
- Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park
- Genesee Country Village & Museum
- Geneva City Council
- Geneva Historical Society
- Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association
- Historic Owego Marketplace
- Historic Palmyra
- Ithaca/Tompkins County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- League of Women Voters of Schuyler County
- Livingston County Planning Department
- Local Historians and Representatives of Museums and Historical Societies in Seneca County
- National Soaring Museum
- New York Bicycling Coalition
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- New York State Assembly
- New York State Senate
- Pal-Mac Lions Club
- Schuyler County Historical Society
- Schuyler County Legislature
- Seneca County Chamber of Commerce
- Seneca Falls Heritage and Tourism Center

- Smith Center for the Arts
- Steuben County Conference & Visitors Bureau
- Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters
- Tanglewood Nature Center and Museum
- Town of Hector
- Town of Homer
- Town of Horseheads
- Town of Montezuma
- Town of Nichols
- Town of Tioga
- US Department of Agriculture, Finger Lakes National Forest
- US Senate
- Visit Rochester
- Watkins Glen Chamber of Commerce
- Watkins-Montour Rotary Club
- Wayne Historians Organization
- Women’s Rights Alliance of New York State
- Yates County Chamber of Commerce

Table 3. Summary of Public Outreach Activities

Date	Method	Description of Activity	Number of Participants
Spring–Summer 2020	Targeted subject matter expert review	Historic context development and review	Approximately 15 total staff members of the New York State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service
May 2020	Virtual WebEx webinar and facilitated conversations	County-specific focus group discussions	14 county conversations involving approximately 100 participants representing local knowledge of natural resources, cultural resource, local traditions, history, recreational opportunities, educational opportunities, and/or economic benefits of heritage tourism
December 2020	Virtual Microsoft Teams webinar	Potential coordinating entity interviews	One (1) participating organization
March–May 2021	Virtual outreach materials: Project PEPC website, ArcGIS StoryMap	Public survey and identification of resources and Finger Lakes study boundaries on ArcGIS StoryMap	172 survey responses
March–May 2021	Project PEPC website	Study area historic context public review	242 correspondences

Date	Method	Description of Activity	Number of Participants
March–June 2021	Virtual Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and other online webinars and meetings	Presentations and Q&A session for interested parties and groups within the study area	24 presentations

What We Learned from the Public

The National Park Service received a total of 413 correspondences via the project website, emailed comments, mailed letters, and survey responses. Of the total number of correspondences received, 172 were direct responses to the survey questions and 240 were resolutions or open-ended letters providing opinions or feedback (edits or comments) on the historic context report. Comments were received from every county in the 14-county study area, from New York residents outside of the study area and a handful from out-of-state respondents.

Nearly all of the survey respondents agreed that the Finger Lakes region is a “nationally notable area” and/or the region should be “recognized as a National Heritage Area.” Several respondents used comparisons to well-known tourist areas, protected sites, and/or existing national heritage areas as evidence that the Finger Lakes region should be (or already “unofficially” is) a national heritage area.

Reasons for why (or why not) the respondent believed that the region was notable and/or should be recognized as a national heritage area varied and included many references to both the natural and cultural resources in the study area. A number of responses also articulated what they believed and/or hoped that a national heritage area designation would provide to the region, including a broader awareness of the region, leading to additional economic development as well as protection and conservation of the region’s natural and cultural resources. Resources, local traditions, potential themes, and other information gathered through the public and community outreach activities have been incorporated into the historic context (chapter 2), contributions and potential themes (chapter 3), resource analysis (chapter 4), and NHA criteria analysis (chapter 5).

NEXT STEPS

Per authorizing legislation, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to Congress that describes the findings of this study and any subsequent conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

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Chapter 2

Study Area Natural History and Historic Context





Photo, Front and Back

Fillmore Glen State Park Gorge. Photo credit: Jackie Schnurr.



Chapter 2: Study Area Natural History and Historic Context

INTRODUCTION

The following is a brief historical overview of the section of Central New York identified in legislation as the NHA feasibility study area. The purpose of this narrative is to provide a concise summary of the historical events associated with the Finger Lakes as identified through research, working with knowledgeable local residents, and responses submitted during the 90-day public comment phase. The goal of this historical overview is two-fold: to highlight key historic events and individuals within the study area that may inform our understanding of the Finger Lakes and to provide a foundation for identifying the most important resources within the study area that would support an interpretive framework and serve as the basis for a national heritage area.

This overview is not intended to be a comprehensive, in-depth history of the Finger Lakes and central New York, and, undoubtedly, it does not include numerous events or aspects of local history that have occurred within the study area. This historic context has been reviewed and improved by

subject matter experts within and outside the study area as part of focused consultation. It was also posted on the project NPS PEPC website for public review and comments.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Geologic Formation of The Finger Lakes

Approximately 600 million years ago, during the Neoproterozoic Era, Earth's supercontinent began to break apart, and an ocean formed between land masses that roughly correlated to Europe and North America today. For the next 100 million years, this ocean continued to widen until the continents changed course and began to move back towards each other. The eventual collision of these land masses formed a tall mountain range now known as North America's Appalachians. For several hundred million years, the land mass to the west of the mountains was low and the ocean regularly flooded the region, creating a broad shallow sea. The shallow water resulted in a high evaporation rate that left behind thick

salt deposits that are mined today across central New York.⁴

During the Paleozoic Era, which began 542 million years ago and ended about 251 million years ago, Earth's sea level rose. The area now known as the Finger Lakes region was then near the equator, and marine life thrived on the ocean floor. Layers of skeletal remains of these bottom-dwellers piled up on the seafloor, forming a layer of mud that eventually became limestone. The Appalachian Mountains continued to erode, sending gravel, sand, and mud into the shallow sea and eventually forming the thick stack of sedimentary rocks of the Devonian age across central New York. The more coarse-grained sediments piled in deltas and beaches closer to the land to form the sandstone layers found in the region today. The finer-grained sediments stayed suspended longer and moved farther west, eventually settling out and forming the siltstone and shale layers found in the region. Around 360 million years ago, the sea level fell and the land in what is now the Finger Lakes region became dry. By about 240 million years ago in the age of the dinosaurs, the continents were again joined as one. Evidence of dinosaurs in the region is almost nonexistent as a result of weathering and bulldozing by the glacial ice sheets that followed.⁵

The Finger Lakes themselves formed during the Pleistocene glaciation "Ice Age" when the first of numerous continental glaciers up to two miles thick moved southward from the Hudson Bay area. The advances and

retreats of these massive glaciers ground, polished, and scoured bedrock and widened and deepened existing river valleys that would one day become the Finger Lakes. Around 19,000 years ago, the climate started warming and the glaciers began retreating, disappearing entirely from the state around 11,000 years ago.⁶ Deposition of glacial debris and sediment from erosion contributed to the region's distinctive landforms including:

- erratics—rocks dropped far from their origin by melting glaciers;
- till—a dense mix of clay, gravel, and boulders mixed by glacial movement and melt;
- drumlins—hills composed of till that are characteristically steeper in the direction that ice flowed;
- eskers—narrow ridges created by streams flowing on the surface of a glacier;
- kettle lakes—formations created where blocks of ice that broke off from a glacier were buried by sediment and ultimately melted; and
- moraines—ridges created along the edge of ice by till or debris that mark the end of an ice sheet.

The Valley Head Moraine crosses what is now central New York and is most visible as a boulder field and kettles between the cities of Ithaca (Tompkins County) and Spencer (Tioga County). This moraine plugged north-south flowing streams, allowing glacial melt to collect in the deep ravines carved by preglacial rivers and to create the unusually

4 James Dake, *Field Guide to the Cayuga Lake Region* (Paleontological Research Institute, 2009); Chris Clemes, "The Story of Syracuse Salt," *Exploring Upstate*, June 28, 2018, <https://exploringupstate.com/story-syracuse-salt/>.

5 Dake, *Field Guide to the Cayuga Lake Region*; O. D. von Engeln, *The Finger Lakes Region: Its Origin and Nature*, Cornell University, 1961.

6 Scott C. Monje, "Finger Lakes," *Encyclopedia of New York State* (Syracuse University, 2005), 561; Engeln, *The Finger Lakes Region*.

deep and narrow Finger Lakes.⁷ The moraine also marks the divide between north-flowing rivers—remnants of the Ice Age stream and glacial paths—and south-flowing rivers that run through Pennsylvania and drain into the Chesapeake Bay. Glacial movement also created the gorges and waterfalls near the southern ends of the lakes. As glaciers widened and deepened preexisting north-south river valleys by hundreds of feet, secondary east-west streams running across ice flows were left relatively unaltered. This created the dramatic cliffs and drops that are still associated with Watkins Glen (Schuyler County) and Ithaca (Tompkins County).⁸

First Peoples

According to archeological records, which can reveal something, but not everything, about the ancestral people, groups of nomadic Paleoindians travelled through the Finger Lakes region approximately 8,000 to 9,000 years ago. Small bands of these hunter-gatherers followed large game during the last stages of the Ice Age, when the glaciers that formed the area’s notable lakes were receding. Somewhat more recent Early Archaic archeological sites across western New York reflect a culture that was highly mobile and left little that archaeologists have found. The Lamoka archeological site provides the bulk of information currently known by anthropologists about the prehistoric inhabitants of the Finger Lakes region. When it was first professionally excavated in the 1920s, the site—located between Lamoka and Waneta Lakes in

Schuyler County—provided some of the first archeological evidence of Late Archaic hunter-gatherers in the northeastern United States. These ancestors lived in western New York between approximately 2,500 and 3,000 BCE and are one of several ancestral groups that came to populate this region. They primarily settled by streams or near bodies of water, supplementing their diets with fish.⁹ Archeological evidence at the Lamoka site suggests cultures defined by narrow, stemmed Lamoka points—projectile points that would have been used as atlatl dart points, polished stone adzes, and bone tools.¹⁰ The Lamoka site is considered by archaeologists as one of the most important precontact archeological sites in North America for defining the Archaic cultural stage of the eastern United States.

By what archaeologists call the Woodland period, approximately 500 BCE, the Lamoka cultures were part of the Hopewell trade network that extended from present-day New York west into the Ohio River Valley and south to the Gulf of Mexico. Hopewellian people and cultures exhibited regional variances but are primarily identified by their development of pottery, their shift toward agriculture and community life, and their engineering and construction of monumental burial mounds, some of which are present in the Niagara Region of western New York.

During what archaeologists refer to as the mid- to late-Woodland period, a culture they designated as Owasco culture emerged as the

7 Timothy McDonnell, “The Finger Lakes Region,” *Geography of New York State*, <http://www.nygeo.org/fingerlakes2.html>.

8 New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, “Watkins Glen State Park,” <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/142/>.

9 Richard L. McCarthy and Harrison Newman, “Prehistoric People of Western New York,” <http://bechsed.nylearns.org/pdf/low/Prehistoric%20People%20of%20Western%20New%20York.pdf>.

10 Walter Gable, “Chapter One-Original Inhabitants and the Iroquois,” *Written History of Seneca County, New York*.

predominant regional group in what is now New York. The Owasco cultural tradition is associated with highly developed religious rites and complicated art in the form of rimmed, round-based pottery and pipes in the forms of animal and human faces.¹¹ The Roundtop archeological site in Broome County dates to the Owasco period and provides insight into the lives of the people living in the upper Susquehanna River valley approximately 700 to 900 years before present time. Features excavated at the site contained the first evidence of cultivation of beans in the American Northeast, as well as the oldest example of the corn-beans-squash growth triad that emerged and migrated through trade as the foundational crops for farming cultures across North America.¹² Changes in housing hint at an increase in population, as well as increases in hostilities between groups. During the late Woodland period, houses gradually shifted from round small structures to larger structures, some of which were protected by stockades. Considering the material culture and artifacts excavated by archaeologists from the Finger Lakes that date to the late Woodland (1100 CE), according to anthropologists and historians, evidence strongly suggests the people they call the Owasco are the ancestors to the present-day Haudenosaunee People of what is now the state of New York.¹³

Haudenosaunee Confederacy and Lenape Native Nations

The Ongweh'onweh (real human beings) or as they are more commonly known, the Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse), have lived in the region since time immemorial. By the European colonial period, the confederacy between the Nations in present-day New York was one of the best known among Indigenous North American societies, and the strong political alliance is one of the hallmarks of Haudenosaunee society that continues into present day.

Wampum is a sacred object made of polished shell beads woven in strands or belts using particular designs to record and commemorate important relationships, events, treaties and other pledges. Wampum records tell of a peacemaker named Deganawida sent by the Creator in the mid-15th century to unite the people and spread *Kariwio* (good mind) throughout the Haudenosaunee territory. Deganawida, aided by Aionwatha, commonly known as Hiawatha, traveled across the landscape to ask Native nations to unite as one government and create a Great League of Peace. The Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, and Onondaga—all still recognized Native nations today—accepted this message of unity and buried their weapons of war; in their place, Deganawida planted a pine tree called the Great Tree of Peace, where all issues of the confederacy could be discussed. Great White Roots extended in each direction from the tree, and the Deganawida said any Nation that wanted to live by the Great Peace would be welcome in the shade of the tree. As a sign of strength, Deganawida the Peacemaker took one arrow from each of the Nations and bound them together, symbolizing the unity of the Five Nations and the Confederacy's

11 McCarthy and Newman, *Prehistoric People of New York*, 10.

12 John P. Hart, "Dating Roundtop's Domesticates: Implications for Northeast Late Prehistory," in *Current Northeast Paleobotany: New York State Museum Bulletin 494* (1999), 47-69.

13 McCarthy and Newman, *Prehistoric People of New York*, 10.

power; he then explained to the Nations’ leaders the laws of the Great Peace—Reason, Righteousness, Justice, and Health.¹⁴ The Haudenosaunee Confederacy is one of the earliest examples of a formal, diplomatic confederacy and remains the oldest governmental institution in North America maintaining its original form. The designated authority and balances of power exemplified in the Great Peace and Haudenosaunee Confederacy, also referred to by European governments and colonists as the Iroquois Confederacy, is considered the inspiration for the United States branches of government as outlined in the Constitution.¹⁵ In 1987, the US Senate formally acknowledged, in a special resolution, the influence of the Haudenosaunee Great Law of Peace on the US Constitution.¹⁶

Politically united in peace, the Five Nations speak distinct languages and still maintain traditional lands and territory within the Finger Lakes region. The Mohawk (*Kanien’kehaka*, “People of the Flint”) were considered warriors and are known for their military prowess. They are known as the “Keepers of the Eastern Door,” responsible for defending the eastern reaches of the Confederacy that stretch into the Mohawk Valley. The Oneida (*Onayotekaono*, “People of the Standing Stone”) hold territory directly east of the Finger Lakes. The

14 “Confederacy’s Creation,” Haudenosaunee Confederacy, <https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/confederacys-creation/>.

15 National Museum of the American Indian Education Office, “Haudenosaunee Guide for Educators,” 3.

16 Ibid, 3. Senate Concurrent Resolution 76 acknowledged the historical debt of the United States to the Iroquois Confederacy and other Indian nations for their demonstration of democratic principles and their example of a free association of independent Indian nations, reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes, and other matters.

Onondaga, (Onungdagano, “People of the Hills”) historically have their territories near Onondaga Lake by present-day Syracuse. The “Keepers of the Central Fire,” the Onondaga remain in the traditional political and geographic center of Haudenosaunee territory and are known as storytellers and wampum keepers of the Confederacy. The Cayuga (*Guyohkohnyoh*, “People of the Great Swamp”) were “little brothers” of the Confederacy, and their ancestral territories are by the marshy north end of Cayuga Lake. They are known as a farming people that also hunted waterfowl and fished. They often allied with the larger neighboring Seneca nation. The “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Confederacy, the Seneca (*Onondowahgah*, “People of the Great Hill”), as with the Mohawk for the East, were responsible for defending the western portion of Haudenosaunee territory, which extends west through the Genesee Valley to Lake Erie and southwest into Ohio Country.¹⁷ The Tuscarora Nation became the Sixth Nation in the Confederacy in 1722. The Tuscarora were forced out of their historic territory in the Carolinas by British troops and mercenaries and sought refuge among the politically strong Haudenosaunee, ultimately being adopted by the Oneida Nation.¹⁸ At this time, the Five Nations became the Six Nations.

Besides sharing the Great Peace, Nations in the Confederacy were further united by cultural similarities and familial connections. The Nations are matriarchal with citizenship, passing through the mother’s line of descent and women holding a place of power through their direct connection to the Nations’ most important resources—citizens and agricultural crops. Women are largely

17 Ibid, 1.

18 “Oneida Life Ways,” Explore Oneida, <https://exploreonaida.com/culture/>.

in charge of the political and social life, and individuals identify their community connections through their mother's family group, called clans. Clan mothers, usually the oldest woman in the clan, make all major decisions for the clan and nominate the male leader of the clan, Hoyaneh (Caretaker of Peace). Traditionally, men hunted and fished, while women gathered native plants and gardened. Three main crops—corn, beans, and squash—were the foundation of the Haudenosaunee diet and considered to be divine gifts. When planted together, these three plants support each other through the growing process in a mutually beneficial ecological process that earned them the name of the Three Sisters.¹⁹

The longhouse is a characteristic feature of historic and present-day Haudenosaunee settlements. Large settlements would consist of multiple buildings. The large homes, which could measure as large as 120 feet long and 20 feet wide, were typically shared by approximately 60 extended family members. Longhouses were the center of communal life and featured shared cooking spaces and sleeping areas segmented into smaller family units by wood screens. Permanent Haudenosaunee settlements could include hundreds of structures, and communities only relocated when supplies of firewood and bark—material necessary for longhouse roof and wall repairs and lashing—were exhausted.

South of the Haudenosaunee lived the Lenni-Lenape, which translates to “Original People” in Munsee-Delaware. The Lenape people—

also called the Delaware Indians by European settlers—lived in *Lenapehoking* (place where the Lenape live) in what is now southern New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, along “the River of Human Beings” (Delaware River).²⁰ They have two main languages with regional dialects, which are all part of the larger Algonquin language family. The Lenape consider themselves the “grandfathers” of the Algonquin peoples since they have been connected to the Delaware River Valley more than 10,000 years. The Lenape likely competed for resources and traded with their northern neighbors, the Haudenosaunee, and intermarriages sometimes occurred, but the Nations’ histories were characterized by wary relations that sometimes resulted in periods of warfare.

The Lenape peoples consisted of three clans, identified by their distinct dialects. The Munsee (“People of the Stony County”) lived near the headwaters of the Delaware River in the northern portion of *Lenapehoking*. The Unami (“People Down River”) were in the central part of the Lenape Territory and the Unalachtigo (“People Near the Ocean”) extended toward the Delaware Bay. These clans were further divided into matriarchal subclans and organized into matrilineal family groups.²¹ Under this system, Lenape women would marry men from one of the other subclans, but any children would become members of the mother’s clan, with their maternal male relatives taking on most of the male childrearing responsibilities. Because spouses were members of different social groups, they maintained separate and equal

19 “Family Structure,” Haudenosaunee Confederacy, <https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/historical-life-as-a-haudenosaunee/family-structure/>; “Housing,” Haudenosaunee Confederacy, <https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/historical-life-as-a-haudenosaunee/housing/>;

20 Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, “Our History,” <https://nltribe.com/our-history/>; Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, “About the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania,” <https://www.lenape-nation.org/>.
21 William A. Pencak and Daniel K. Richter, eds., *Friends and Enemies in Penn’s Woods* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004).

rights and bore the individual responsibilities of property and debts.²² The Lenape, like the Haudenosaunee, cultivated the Three Sisters and used fire to supplement the productive life of their fields.

European Contact

During the age of European colonization, Indigenous peoples suffered the fast-changing and often devastating effects of foreign contact and geopolitical conflict. Foreign nations sought Indigenous peoples' assistance in economic and military competition in North America even as interaction with European colonists displaced Native communities and introduced diseases that decimated the Indigenous populations. For example, by the 1660s, all the Haudenosaunee Nations suffered major epidemics.²³

The French were the first European colonizers to explore the area in the early 17th century swiftly followed by the Dutch and English. The Haudenosaunee (formerly Iroquois) Confederacy's wide-reaching political influence, vast geographic territory, and control over waterways and trade routes throughout present-day New York and Canada made them valuable trading partners and major players in the North American fur trade. The Onondaga Nation allowed French Jesuit priests to develop missions near their main village when French explorers and missionaries entered the area around present-day Syracuse during the 17th century. Hostilities emerged early after their arrival. French settlement founder Samuel de Champlain had a grand vision of uniting

Algonquin-speaking nations, such as the Huron and Montagnais peoples, with other Native nations in the region. However, in 1609, a battle with Champlain resulted in the deaths Haudenosaunee leaders, which sowed mistrust of the French. The 1600s were marked with periods of violence between the French, their Algonquin allies, and the Haudenosaunee Nations. Competition between Native nations and Europeans for resources useful to European trade heightened tensions and violence between all parties.

To the east, Lenape peoples occupied and stewarded the mid-Atlantic seaboard. After European contact in the early 1600s, Lenape peoples built relationships with Dutch and Swedish colonists, helping them establish New Amsterdam and New Sweden (present-day New York City and Delaware). Dutch settlement around the mouth of what we now call the Hudson River expanded the displacement of Lenape peoples that continued through the following centuries. The Dutch established lucrative trade relations with the Haudenosaunee that passed to Britain when it seized the Dutch-controlled New Netherlands in 1664.

To the south, the Pennsylvania colony's leaders developed active and complex relationships with Lenape, Haudenosaunee, and other Native nations. Pennsylvania's colonial proprietor William Penn wrote of his interactions in the 1680s with the Lenape in what is now Pennsylvania. In 1755, John Penn set aside roughly a Philadelphia city block in perpetuity to provide sovereign land for Native delegations to conduct diplomacy in the colonial capitol. However, agreements with the Indigenous peoples often focused on achieving colonial ends in ways that promoted some Native nations' interests over others.

22 Margaret M. Caffrey, "Complementary Power: Men and Women of the Lenni Lenape." *American Indian Quarterly*. 24 (1): 44–63.

23 "Oneida Early Historical Background - The Ancestors on the Oneida," Milwaukee Public Museum, <https://www.mpm.edu/content/wirp/ICW-168>.

By the end of the 17th century, the study area was an important theater of war in the long conflict between Great Britain and France, further dividing Native people's ability to thrive and cooperate with each other. In the early 18th century, alliances with European nations pitted Haudenosaunee Nations against each other to bring furs to market for the British and French. As tensions increased between England and France in North America during the 1700s, both nations courted the Haudenosaunee Nations as potential allies. Sir William Johnson, the British superintendent of Indian Affairs, helped secure Haudenosaunee support for the British by mid-century. This translated into aid for the British on expeditions against France, a relative degree of safety for British settlements in the region, and an eventual British victory over France in the Seven Years War/French and Indian War (1754–1763).²⁴ The Treaty of Paris marked the end of the Seven Years War and transferred French territory in North America to Great Britain.

In the aftermath of the Seven Years War, British settlers pushed west and increasingly settled on Haudenosaunee land. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 prohibited English settlement west of the “proclamation line” that followed the Eastern Continental Divide through the Appalachian Mountain and bisected what would become New York State.²⁵ However, the proclamation line

did not account for the Native nations still residing on their historic lands east of the boundary or for land speculators and English colonists who had already pushed into the Ohio Valley. The Treaty of Fort Stanwix (1768), negotiated by Britain and the Six Nations, clearly delineated the boundary between English territory and Native reservation land—a line that follows the Mohawk River south of Fort Stanwix and east of Haudenosaunee territory.²⁶ In direct defiance of the treaty, white settlers continued to push west of the negotiated proclamation line, illegally settling in what is now the states of Virginia and Ohio. As tensions leading to the American Revolution developed, Native nations were divided in their loyalties to England, the American rebels, and their own alliances.

American Revolutionary War

Initially, Haudenosaunee Nations viewed the conflict as a civil war between colonists and chose to remain neutral. At the time of the American colonial revolution against Great Britain, the Haudenosaunee had been somewhat successful in keeping colonists out of their territory through a complicated set of peaceful agreements, recorded on wampum, and given the name the Covenant Chain.

This 200-year-old set of complicated agreements meant to preserve peace governed early decision-making of neutrality. As the conflict ramped up, it became clear to Haudenosaunee leaders that the winners of the revolution would ultimately be the

24 William Sawyer, “The Six Nations Confederacy During the American Revolution,” Fort Stanwix National Monument, https://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/historyculture/the-six-nations-confederacy-during-the-american-revolution.htm#CP_JUMP_3550115.

25 Dr. Robert Venables, “A Chronology of Major Events Affecting the Onondagas Before and After the American Revolution 1763–1832,” Onondaga Nation, November 19, 2012, <https://www.onodaganation.org/history/2012/a-chronology-of-major-events-affecting-the-onodagas-before-and-after-the-american-revolution-1763-1832/>.

26 Sawyer, “The Six Nation Confederacy During the American Revolution”; Michael Leroy Oberg, “American Indians: Colonial Period,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 66–67; William J. Campbell, *Negotiating at the Oneida Carry: Fort Stanwix National Historic Monument Historic Resource Study* (Washington, DC: Department of Interior, 2017), 76.

parties they negotiated their futures with. Loyalties and allyship among the nations diverged, weakening the overall power of the Confederacy.

In late 1774, the Six Nations were pulled into the fray when the First Continental Congress passed the “Continental Association” which instated an embargo on British goods. This action disrupted the Haudenosaunee trade network into British-controlled Canada and violated the trade agreement between the Native nations and Great Britain.²⁷ First in October 1775 and again in July 1776 after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Patriot representatives met with Haudenosaunee Council at Fort Pitt in present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to negotiate neutrality. The Haudenosaunee Nations agreed to peace with the Americans and neutrality in the fast-approaching Revolutionary War if the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix would be honored and European settlement was kept to the east of the defined boundary between English colonies and Indigenous lands. Colonial patriots did not comply and continued to push further into Native lands.²⁸

When the political discontent erupted into the American Revolutionary War, the member nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy split their support between the British and newly formed American forces. The majority of nations and individual members supported the British under the belief that the Nations would be more likely to keep their relative independence and land under continued British rule, while the Oneida and Tuscarora

backed the American Colonists and fought alongside Patriot forces. As with many British families living in North America, alliances were not clear-cut, and in some cases, allegiance was split on a person-by-person basis, which destabilized the clan-based society. What had started as a European civil war on North American soil soon turned the Confederacy against itself, undermining the social unity and political stability that the Haudenosaunee had enjoyed for centuries. The divergence of allegiance during the war set the stage for the United States to aggressively pursue expansion into Haudenosaunee homelands.

In 1778, Loyalists and members of the British-backed Native nations participated in raids that crippled Continental forces and destroyed frontier colonial settlements in New York and Pennsylvania. Fearing that the New York frontier would be pushed east to the Hudson River if divisive action was not taken, General George Washington ordered General John Sullivan to lead four brigades of men—approximately 4,500 men making up a sizable portion of the Continental Army—on a scorched-earth campaign that would limit the Haudenosaunee’s ability to attack in the future. This action is known today as the Sullivan Campaign of 1779 (also known as the Sullivan-Clinton Genocide, Sullivan Expedition, and Sullivan-Clinton Campaign). Washington tasked Sullivan with launching a terror campaign to destroy the food supply of the Cayuga and Seneca Nations in the heart of the Finger Lakes and to reduce the Cayuga and Seneca’s forces. Smaller expeditions were tasked with destroying Seneca settlements in western Pennsylvania and Onondaga settlements in central New York.

27 Venables, “A Chronology of Major Events...,” <https://www.onodaganation.org/history/2012/a-chronology-of-major-events-affecting-the-onodagas-before-and-after-the-american-revolution-1763-1832/>.

28 Ibid.

In August 1779, forces led by General Sullivan and his second-in-command, General James Clinton met in Tioga near the Pennsylvania–New York border and began their campaign by destroying the Munsee Delaware settlement of Chemung in present-day Chemung County.²⁹ Instead of deploying the guerrilla tactics that long served Haudenosaunee well, Confederacy war chiefs and the meager British forces available to counterattack decided to retaliate with a standing battle and a scorched-earth policy to destroy anything in their path. Their progress was marked by the smoldering villages they left behind as they made their way across the Finger Lakes region.³⁰ The Battle of Newtown on August 29, 1779, ended in a retreat of British allied Haudenosaunee forces, destroying morale for the British-backing Confederacy Nations, who now chose to proactively flee to other nearby settlements. For the next two weeks, Sullivan’s forces moved from Seneca Lake to Canandaigua Lake to Chenussio—a Seneca stronghold near present-day Leicester in Livingston County that included 128 multifamily longhouses. By the end of the campaign, Sullivan’s men destroyed more than 40 Haudenosaunee villages, at least 160,000 bushels of corn, countless pounds of stored vegetables and fruit, and only suffered 40 casualties.

29 James Folts, “The Munsee Delawares of Chemung/Wilawana in the Revolutionary War Era,” Binghamton University Public Archaeology Projects-Chemung Battlefield Project, 2020, <https://www.binghamton.edu/programs/public-archaeology-facility/projects/chemung-battlefield/historical-perspectives.html>.

30 Ron Soodalter, “Massacre & Retribution: The 1779-80 Sullivan Expedition,” <https://www.historynet.com/massacre-retribution-the-1779-80-sullivan-expedition/>.

While the American forces did not take Haudenosaunee prisoners, the Sullivan Campaign devastated the Haudenosaunee Nations, resulting in rapid displacement of Haudenosaunee peoples from their homelands, including the Finger Lakes region, and destroyed the Native nations’ capacity to wage war.³¹ By the end of September 1779, more than 5,000 nation members had arrived at the British Fort Niagara expecting food, clothing, and shelter in the face of their catastrophic losses at the hands of the Americans.³² Instead of lessening the threat to frontier settlements, the Sullivan Campaign increased the animosity of Haudenosaunee and British alike, laying the ground for fierce fighting within expanding American New York territory of British-backed Native nations raids during the 1780s.

American Expansion into Inland New York

The Treaty of Paris of 1783 officially intended to end hostilities between the British and Americans; however, the treaty did not include the allied Native nations, leaving their legacy treaties with different European parties unresolved and their future to be determined through separate treaties with the new American government. In 1784, the young American republic entered into the first of three treaties with the Six Nations. The 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix, which was signed by the Six Nations’ representatives but never ratified by the US Congress, ceded interests in land west in Ohio Country and north of the boundary negotiated with Britain during the

31 “Onondaga Nation,” Encyclopedia of New York State, 1149.

32 Fort Stanwix NM Staff, “The Clinton-Sullivan Campaign of 1779,” Fort Stanwix National Monument. Joseph R. Fischer, “Sullivan-Clinton Campaign,” Encyclopedia of New York State, 1503.

previous treaty at Fort Stanwix to the United States.³³ This agreement marked the first treaty between the Six Nations and the United States, recognized the sovereignty of both nations, and allowed the nations to divide land and henceforth live in peace.³⁴ Many Cayuga and Seneca who backed Britain lost everything during the war and moved to Canada following the Sullivan–Clinton Campaign.³⁵

Immediately following the war, states in the newly created United States competed for control of Indigenous lands. As the United States formed after the revolution, colonies, and now states competed for territory of their own. Land once occupied and stewarded by Haudenosaunee peoples were now being disputed between states, not with Native nations. The 1786 Treaty of Hartford delineated the boundaries of New York and Massachusetts, states that had both laid claims to land extending west of Seneca Lake and running from the shore of Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania border. The newly established states agreed to split rights to the contested territory, recognizing the land as part of New York State but granting Massachusetts preemptive rights to negotiate with the Six Nations for clear title to the land that includes the Finger Lakes. Speculators quickly purchased rights to titles containing large swaths of western New York from Massachusetts and negotiated with Native nations for rights. The Phelps and Gorham Purchase of 1788—named for the syndicate

form by land speculators Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham—covered 6 million acres of land west of Seneca Lake including the present-day counties of Ontario, Steuben, Yates, and portions of Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, and Schuyler. The parcel was quickly subdivided and sold to interested New Englanders looking to spread out and create new settlements and farms.

New York also promoted postwar settlement in the newly opened western portion of the state through its development of the nearly 2 million-acre Military Tract of Central New York. The Continental Congress promised men who volunteered for service with the Continental Army, who were largely responsible for the devastation of the Sullivan Campaign, 100 acres of land for their service; facing a shortage in volunteers, New York upped the offer to 600 acres per man. In 1789, after formalizing which lands were included in the newly established Cayuga and Onondaga reservation, the state established 25 townships in the eastern Finger Lakes. Each township was given a classical name borrowed from ancient Greece or ancient Rome and divided into 100 600-acre lots.³⁶ Haudenosaunee homeland and traditional names were replaced with names considered appropriate for a young nation guided by Enlightenment principles: “Aurelius,” a Roman Emperor; “Cincinnatus,” the farmer and leader that inspired first president George Washington; “Homer,” the blind, Greek poet who authored *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*; “Ovid,” the ancient poet regarded the master of Latin language; “Romulus,” one of the legendary founders of Rome; “Virgil,” the Roman poet who penned

33 Fort Stanwix NM Staff, “Treaty and Land Transaction of 1784,” Fort Stanwix National Monument, <https://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/historyculture/treaty-landtransaction-1784.htm>.

34 Seneca Nation of Indians, “Treaties,” <https://sni.org/culture/treaties/>.

35 Oberg, “American Indians: Colonial Period,” Encyclopedia of New York State, 67.

36 Bernie Corcoran, “Military Tract of Central New York,” Town of Sennett, New York, <https://www.cayugacounty.us/918/Military-Tract-of-Central-New-York>; Peter Eisenstadt, “Military Tract,” Encyclopedia of New York State, 1048.

the *Aeneid*; and “Ithaca,” home of the Greek hero Ulysses; among others.

To curb unbridled speculation of Indigenous peoples’ lands, the US Congress passed the Indian Intercourse Act of 1790 to stop states from sanctioning ruthless pursuit of Native nation land. However, distribution of Haudenosaunee land as military allotments continued illegally. Land in the present-day counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Seneca, and portions of Oswego, Tompkins, Schuyler, and Wayne were offered for purchase starting in 1791. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy Nations appealed to the President and Congress to curb speculation.

To avoid further and prolonged conflict with the Native nations in New York, the Treaty of Canandaigua was signed in 1794. One of the first treaties signed by the United States as a nation, it established the recognition of sovereignty between the United States and Haudenosaunee Nations and affirmed Haudenosaunee land rights, although it greatly reduced their land within the military tract and restricted the Haudenosaunee Nations from making future land claims. The treaty remains in effect and is celebrated annually in Canandaigua, New York, on November 11. In 2016, Haudenosaunee leaders met with US officials at the White House to commemorate and acknowledge the Treaty of Canandaigua. Furthermore, the US government maintains sovereign nation to sovereign nation relationships based on mutually recognized treaty rights with the Treaty of Canandaigua’s federally recognized Haudenosaunee Nations, as well as with other federally recognized sovereign nations throughout the study area through other treaties and agreements. Sovereign native nations and their members continue to reside

in the 14-county study area in New York State, as well as other states to which some nations were removed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

With the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua in place, the State of New York finalized arrangements for distribution of the Central Military Tract plots in 1799. However, because of the delay between the end of the Revolutionary War and lot distribution, the majority of military tract lands were purchased by private New York and New England speculators, forcing Congress to reserve further rights for the federal government to regulate Native commerce and trade.³⁷

Soldiers who took part in the Sullivan Campaign remembered the favorable nature of the area and agricultural potential of the land that was previously occupied by the Haudenosaunee and eagerly entered the lottery for military tracts or moved west to stake claims from speculators. Heavy forests covered the majority of the Finger Lakes, providing ample timber and potash created from ashes of burned logs—two profitable products at the turn of the 18th century. With the Indigenous population either violently pushed out of the region or sequestered onto reserved lands, many early American settlers created small farms that took advantage of the region’s nutrient-rich soil and relatively moderate climate, side effects of the glacial movement that created the Finger Lakes and their surprising depths. The invention of a cast iron plow with standard, interchangeable parts, patented in 1819 by Jethro Wood, an early white resident of Ledyard (present-day Cayuga County), revolutionized agriculture and improved farmers’ efficiency across

³⁷ Anne M. Derour, “Seneca County,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1390.

the young country.³⁸ Some of the earliest Western New York settlements including Auburn (present-day Cayuga County), Ithaca (present-day Tompkins County), Geneva (present-day Ontario County), and Canandaigua (present-day Ontario County) were founded in the early years of the 19th century at locations that highlight the region's blend of natural resources, ample waterpower, and agricultural potential.³⁹

Expansion of the western frontier also attracted religious groups eager to build communities outside established religious restraints. The Christian religious belief that human beings are meant to “improve” or “develop” land took hold as the English language began to dominate the landscape of newly arrived settlers. Land once stewarded by Haudenosaunee people and lifeways was converted to resources meant for commodification and profit. Whether friendly or aggressive, the goal of overtaking and owning Native nations' lands rapidly became the way of life imposed by the creation of the United States.

The self-named evangelist, the Public Universal Friend (also referred to as The Friend or PUF), and their followers were some of the first white settlers in the Genesee Valley. Born Jemima Wilkinson and raised in a Quaker household, PUF survived a severe illness to proclaim that Jemima had died and a genderless spirit named The Public Universal Friend now inhabited Wilkinson's body. The Friend challenged social and cultural norms through their androgynous dress and their refusal to use gendered pronouns. PUF

38 “Jethro Wood House,” National Historic Landmark Form (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1976)

39 Scott C. Monje, “Finger Lakes,” Encyclopedia of New York State, 561.

preached a doctrine of free will and universal salvation that valued individuals regardless of gender or race, a message that appealed to women and fellow Quakers who opposed slavery. In the late 1780s, the Society of Universal Friends established the settlement of Gore in what is now Yates County; after a few years, the group relocated to the town of Jerusalem. By 1790, Jerusalem was the largest non-Native settlement in western New York and included approximately 260 people—almost one-fifth of western New York's white inhabitants.⁴⁰

The Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as the Quakers, looking to create communities of religious acceptance and equality, also found a place in central New York. Two Massachusetts Quaker families purchased land from Phelps and Gorham in the 1780s. In 1789, Quakers purchased an entire 25,000-acre township in what is now Ontario County. Pennsylvania Quakers arrived in the Finger Lakes area shortly after the Treaty of Canandaigua was ratified in 1795 to support the Haudenosaunee and enforce the nations' treaty rights in the face of Native displacement.⁴¹

Early educational and religious institutions tried to tame the “frontier” and provide religious guidance in the remote, but now accessible, inlands of New York that were first served by itinerant Methodist circuit riders trained in New England. Canandaigua Academy, a single-sex educational institution

40 Paul B. Moyer, *The Public Universal Friend: Jemima Wilkinson and Religious Enthusiasm in Revolutionary America* (Ithaca: Cornell Press, 2015), 133; Jemima Wilkinson House, National Register of Historic Places (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1994).

41 Farming Quaker Crossroads Historic District, National Register of Historic Places (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2007).

offering a classical education, was chartered in 1795, only a few years after the town of Canandaigua (Ontario County) was selected as the land office of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase.⁴² Geneva (Ontario County) became the headquarters of the New York Genesee Land Company in 1793; the Geneva Academy was founded three years later.⁴³ Located along the only overland road between Albany and Buffalo, the Auburn Theological Seminary Presbyterian was founded in 1818 by the Presbyterian Synod of Ontario and Seneca Counties to provide students with a nondenominational Protestant education that would support ministry in the far reaches of the expanded United States.⁴⁴ While often thought of as noble attempts by colonists, colonial education was sometimes forced on Haudenosaunee and other Native populations, often with the intent of conversion to Christianity and manufacturing a love of colonial life.

In 1817, the Auburn Penitentiary opened as the second prison in the state of New York. The “Auburn System,” also called the “silent system” or “communal system,” forced convicts to walk lock-step, wear striped uniforms, and silently work side-by-side in prison shops before returning to solitary cells at night. Guards, who also stood silently overseeing the work, doled out harsh corporal punishment for minor infractions. The revolutionary penal system made prisons profitable by contracting out convict labor for nearby industries and reduced the threat of prisoner uprising or riots by taking away prisoners’ voices; during the 1820s and 1830s,

42 Nancy Beadie, “Academies,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 6–7.

43 Marla A. Bennett, “Geneva,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 631.

44 Barbara G. Wheeler and Mark N. Wilhelm, “Auburn Theological Seminary,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 135–136.

the prison’s success attracted thousands of visitors a year who paid to view the penitentiary’s silent yards and shops.⁴⁵

Overland Routes Gives Way to the Canal Era

As more settlers moved into western New York, the region’s many lakes gained importance as transportation corridors. Cayuga Lake emerged as an early transportation route. The lake’s marshy northern terminus was initially seen as a barrier to overland travel and settlement, but once a ferry was introduced in 1788, settlers could easily navigate from Ithaca into the heart of the Finger Lakes or continue their journey as far north as the Seneca River.⁴⁶ Turnpikes following established Haudenosaunee inland routes connected the seemingly far-flung settlements popping up in the Military Tract and Phelps and Gorham Purchase to the state capital region surrounding Albany. Chartered by the state in 1800, the Seneca Turnpike—also called the Great Genesee Road and the Iroquois Trail—ran 160 miles east-west through Canandaigua, Waterloo, Syracuse, Oneida, and Utica north of the Finger Lakes and included the longest bridge in the world.⁴⁷ The Cayuga Bridge spanning the northern end of the Cayuga Lake measured more than a mile long and aided overland travel when it was completed in 1800. One of the largest public improvements in the young State of New York, the bridge became a symbolic divide between the East and the newly opened

45 Scott W. Anderson, “Auburn Correctional Facility,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 135; Cayuga Museum of History and Art, “The Auburn System,” 2019, <https://cayugamuseum.org/the-auburn-system/>.

46 Scott C. Monje, “Finger Lakes Ferries,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 561.

47 Portions of modern New York Highway 5 in the Finger Lakes region follow the Seneca Turnpike route.

West.⁴⁸ By 1810, Ithaca was connected to Bath (Steuben County), Geneva (Ontario County), and the Seneca River by plank roads, many of which were privately funded by Charles Williamson, the majority investor in the 1 million-acre Pulteney Purchase that stretched from the falls of the Genesee River (the present-day site of Rochester in Monroe County) to the junction of Genesee River and Canaseraga Creek south of present-day town of Geneseo (Livingston County).⁴⁹

Steamboats rose to prominence during the 1820s, especially on the larger Finger Lakes such as Cayuga, Seneca, and Keuka, as they provided additional transportation and connections to small settlements spread around the lakes' shores. Steamboats also supported the earliest recreational development of the Finger Lakes, with the first excursion boat appearing on Skaneateles Lake in 1816.⁵⁰

As the population of interior New York increased, developers pushed for a faster method of transportation between the area and developed population centers like New York City. The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, revolutionized inland travel and ushered in a broader era of canal construction across the state, connecting the state capital of Albany on the western shore of the Hudson River to western New York and the Great Lakes. The 363-mile artificial waterway opened the New York interior to trade, transportation, and seemingly limitless economic opportunities to

communities along its path. The historic route ran south along Onondaga Lake at Syracuse and grazed the north shore of Cayuga Lake before traveling through the northern portions of Cayuga, Seneca, Wayne, and Counties along its path between the cities of Syracuse and Rochester.⁵¹

As a result of colonization, farming techniques on the land changed. Three sisters complementary farming that sustained life for so long was rapidly replaced by monocropping methods meant to create products for sale. The advent of new transportation technologies would cause further changes to the landscape. Farmers were now able to ship their fruits, vegetables, grains, and animals farther afield to markets along the Eastern Seaboard. Canal development was quickly followed by water-powered flour mills, cotton and wool mills, sawmills, paper mills, tanneries, and distilleries that helped transform the raw products into additional goods to be shipped to larger cities and markets in the east. Rochester became known as the “Flour City” because of its many flour mills powered by the waterfalls along the Genesee River, and the connectivity provided by the Erie Canal allowed New York farmers to process their wheat in Rochester and ship it across the country. By the end of the 1830s, Rochester was the third largest city in the state of New York.⁵²

48 Village of Cayuga, “History of Cayuga, <https://www.villagecayugany.com/about-cayuga/>.

49 Carol Kammen, “Tompkins County” Encyclopedia of New York State, 1565; James D. Folts, “The ‘Alien Proprietorship’: The Pulteney Estate during the Nineteenth Century,” *Crooked Lake Review*, Fall 2003, https://www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/101_135/129fall2003/129folts.html.

50 Monje, “Finger Lakes,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 561; Patricia Blacker, “Skaneateles,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1415-1416.

51 National Park Service, “History and Culture,” *Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor*, <https://www.nps.gov/erie/learn/historyculture/index.htm>; Roy G. Finch, “The Story of the New York State Canals,” *New York State Canal Corporation*, http://www.canals.ny.gov/history/finch_history_print.pdf.

52 Carolyn Vacca, “Monroe County,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 999.

Canals also allowed for cheaper shipping of heavy materials. Minerals from the glacial formation of the region became some of the first products associated with the Syracuse area. Commercial salt production boomed near the marshy south shore of Onondaga Lake as canal shipping made transporting bulky cargo quicker and less expensive. Syracuse and other Onondaga County villages' economies were built around saltworks and related industries of firewood cutting, barrel production, pump manufacturing, and pipe making. Pork became a popular commodity as inland farmers preparing pork for shipping used salt produced around Syracuse. Limestone, an essential product for plaster, cement, and fertilizer was also quarried in Onondaga County.⁵³

While the 1825 alignment of the Erie Canal bypassed the heart of the Finger Lakes, the second era of canal building that was ushered in once developers saw the success of the Erie Canal created more local connections to facilitate commercial opportunities and quicker trade. Opened in 1832, the 17-mile Seneca-Cayuga Canal connected the northern portions of the two largest Finger Lakes along the canalized Seneca River.⁵⁴ This extended canal shipping further hinterland to wheat growers and farmers in Tompkins, Schuyler, Yates, and Ontario Counties and contributed to the development of the communities of Seneca Falls, Waterloo, and Geneva. The Crooked Lake Canal, opened in 1833, connected Keuka and Seneca Lakes and provided canal access to Penn Yan, Steuben County, and a larger portion of Yates

County.⁵⁵ The Chemung Canal ran south from Watkins Glen on the southern tip of Seneca Lake along the Chemung River through Chemung County and into Pennsylvania, providing a water route from coal country to Lake Erie.⁵⁶ The Genesee Valley Canal, built during the 1840s, ran south from Rochester and connected the Erie Canal to farmers and wheat growers in inner Livingston County, bringing more grain to the Rochester mills.

Much like the commercial development that grew along the Erie Canal during the 1820s, processing facilities, commercial centers, and increased transportation also developed along the smaller canals connecting the Finger Lakes during the 1830s and 1840s. Steamboats towed barges full of timber, milled goods, and coal across the Finger Lakes to access the Erie Canal, Great Lakes, and ultimately larger markets, including New York City.

Along with economic opportunities, canals also provided a traditional inroad for settlement. Besides Binghamton and Elmira, every major city in New York State is located along a trade route established by the Erie Canal. The Erie Canal became a major immigration route with more immigrants moving westward along the Erie Canal corridor than any other trans-Appalachian canal. Even today, close to 80% of central New York's population lives within 25 miles of the canal's path.⁵⁷ Immigrants who built the canal settled in Syracuse, Rochester, and smaller towns that lined the canal, creating

53 "Syracuse," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1517.
54 Menje, "Finger Lakes," 561; Michael Riley, "Cayuga and Seneca Canal," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 289; "The Cayuga and Seneca Canal," *Seneca County*, New York.

55 Gwen Chamberlain, "Yates County," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1737-1738; Douglas B. McDonald, "Seneca Lake," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1393.
56 James D. Folts, "Steuben County," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1479-1480.
57 New York State Canal Corporation, "Canal History" <http://www.canals.ny.gov/history/history.html>.

ethnic neighborhoods associated with the Irish and German immigrants who helped construct the canal.⁵⁸

Social and Religious Movements

Central New York communities that flourished with canal-related development and rail connections throughout the 19th century also became hotbeds for religious and social movements of the early 1800s as the area's population rapidly grew. Religious freedom granted by the United States Bill of Rights combined with rapid societal and technological changes experienced by Americans living through western expansion fueled an American spiritual movement that was exemplified in the newly opened frontier of New York. Between 1825 and 1835, Charles Grandison Finney—a Presbyterian minister who promoted the concepts of self-improvement and free will and fully embraced an emotional expression of faith that appealed to those living on the American frontier—hosted large-scale conversions and religious revivals throughout central and western New York. The recently opened Erie Canal allowed for travelling preachers, including Finney, to easily reach new audiences in the state's interior. Rochester's boomtown atmosphere drew Finney to the town in 1830. While there, he preached six times a week and attracted thousands of individuals from the surrounding areas during his winter Great Revivals, large-scale social and religious

58 Lorraine Boissoneault, "Thank the Erie Canal for Spreading People, Ideas, and Germs Across America," *Smithsonian Magazine*, July 3, 2017, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/grab-your-mule-named-sal-and-explore-erie-canal-180963892/>.

events that included mass conversions.⁵⁹ Religious fervor in central and western New York was so pronounced during the "Second Great Awakening" of the 1830s and 1840s that the area was referred to as the "Burned Over District," a reference to the spiritual fire embodied by the various groups and the speed in which the movement engulfed the area.⁶⁰

The Protestant Revival Movement shifted focus from congregations that relied on educated religious leaders to interpret religious texts to a populist approach that put salvation into the hands of the masses, exemplified in large-scale camp and revival meetings, mass conversions, and renewed interests in personal interpretations of Christian religious texts. Throughout western New York, more than 300 new congregations were created by 1845.⁶¹ New American religions that were formed in the Finger Lakes during this time include the Church of Latter Day Saints—started by Joseph Smith, Jr. after he reportedly found golden plates inscribed by God in a field outside Palmyra (Wayne County) and published their inscriptions in 1830 as the Book of Mormon—and Spiritualism, brought to prominence by the Fox Sisters of Hydesville (Wayne County)

59 John H. Martin, "Charles Grandison Finney" in *Saints, Sinners and Reformers: The Burned-Over District Revisited*, *Crooked Lakes Review*, 2005, https://www.crookedlakereview.com/books/saints_sinners/martin7.html.

60 "The Burned-Over District," *New York Heritage Digital Collection*, 2020, <https://nyheritage.org/exhibits/two-hundred-years-erie-canal/burned-over-district>.

61 "Burned Over District and its Reforming Zeal," *Chronicle Express*, January 31, 2016, <https://www.chronicle-express.com/news/20160131/burned-over-district-and-its-reforming-zeal>.

during the late 1840s.⁶² Utopian communities based on the communal principles of French thinker Francois Marie Charles Fourier appeared at Sodus Bay (Wayne County) and Skaneateles (Onondaga County) during the 1840s, but these—like the approximately 300 other Fourier Utopias that were established during this time—were short-lived.⁶³

The Second Great Awakening helped foster the idea of perceived moral imperatives and institutions' role in bettering society by supporting secular reform movements, including the antislavery movement.⁶⁴ Transportation and economic links provided by the Erie Canal to major East Coast cities and the Great Lakes connected the region to abolition hot spots and the teachings of leading antislavery advocates. Syracuse earned the reputation as the great central depot of the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War. The city's urban atmosphere and proximity to the Canada—United States border made it a major gateway to

freedom.⁶⁵ Construction of the Erie Canal and salt production in the early 1800s brought workers—including free and fugitive African Americans—into the Syracuse area, creating integrated workplaces and communities. Travelling ministers active during the Second Great Awakening and Quakers moving into Western New York preached equality and the importance of social reform that reiterated abolitionist themes of independence and equality. These themes were personified in Reverend Jermain Wesley Loguen.

Reverend Loguen, the “Underground Railroad King,” arrived in Syracuse in 1841 and began publicizing his connection to the Underground Railroad network of safehouses that provided aid and accommodations for enslaved individuals seeking freedom in northern states or Canada.⁶⁶ Loguen also took part in the “Jerry Rescue,” a local protest against the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act. On October 1, 1851, during the antislavery Liberty Party's New York State political convention in Syracuse, federal agents arrested William “Jerry” Henry, a local barrel maker under the recently passed Fugitive Slave Law. Thousands of outraged Syracuse residents and Liberty party members stormed the building where the police detained Henry, helping him escape custody. A few days later,

62 Ronald D. Cohen, “Wayne County,” Encyclopedia of New York State, 1670-1680; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, “Joseph Smith Family Farm,” <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/subsection/historic-sites/new-york/palmyra/joseph-smith-historic-farm-site?lang=eng>; Stephanie L. Knarr, “A Celebration of 163 Years of Moderns Spiritualism,” Wayne County Life, <http://www.waynecountylife.com/2011/03/fox-sisters-by-stephanie-l.html>.

63 Free Inquiry, “Fourierist Utopianism,” Freethought Trail, <https://freethought-trail.org/causes/cause:fourierist-utopianism/>.

64 Daniel Gifford, “A society for everything: Remaking America's charitable landscape during the Second Great Awakening,” National Museum of American History - O Say Can You See? Stories from the Museum, March 3, 2016, <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/charity-second-great-awakening>; “Second Great Awakening,” Ohio History Central, http://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Second_Great_Awakening.

65 Williamson, “Explore the Underground Railroad's Great Central Depot,” <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/02/great-central-depot-underground-railroad-new-york/>; National Park Service, Women's Rights National Historic Park Foundation Document.

66 Kim M. Williamson, “Explore the Underground Railroad's Great Central Depot,” National Geographic, February 27, 2019, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/02/great-central-depot-underground-railroad-new-york/>; “Jermain Wesley Loguen,” National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, <https://www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org/jermain-wesley-loguen.html>; Historic Resources Associated with the Freedom Trail, Abolitionism, and African American Life in Central New York, 1820–1870, National Register of Historic Places (Washington, DC; Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2008).

supporters helped him cross Lake Ontario into Canada to ensure his freedom. This daring act became national news as a hard-fought and dramatic triumph of Syracuse's abolitionist community.⁶⁷

Rochester, the other major city bordering the Finger Lakes region also had a prominent abolitionist community supported by an active African American population. The Western New York Anti-Slavery Society was founded in Rochester and welcomed men and women of African and European descent as members, which was unique at the time of its 1832 founding.⁶⁸ Amy and Isaac Post, two of the cofounders of the antislavery society, operated an active Underground Railroad Station out of their Rochester home and hosted abolitionist meetings.⁶⁹ Frederick Douglass came to the city in 1847, influenced by the Posts and local abolitionist Austin Steward.⁷⁰ Douglass started his *North Star* newspaper while living in the city and gave his notable "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" speech on July 5, 1852, in downtown Rochester.

67 Syracuse University, "The Jerry Rescue and Its Aftermath," Special Collections and Research Library, June 9, 2012, <https://library.syr.edu/digital/exhibits/undergroundrr/case3.htm>.

68 Freethought Trail, "Post Home/Western New York Anti-Slavery Society," Freethought Trail, <https://freethought-trail.org/trail-map/location:post-home-western-new-york-anti-slavery-society/>.

69 Freethought Trail, "Post, Amy, 1802-1899," Freethought Trail, <https://freethought-trail.org/profiles/profile:post-amy/>.

70 Peter Iglinski, "Rochester's black community had a deep-and underrecognized—influence on Frederick Douglass," University of Rochester Newscenter, February 1, 2017, <https://www.rochester.edu/newscenter/rochesters-black-community-had-deep-and-underrecognized-influence-on-frederick-douglass-213602/>; Visit Rochester Staff, "Finding Frederick Douglass in Rochester, NY," Visit Rochester, February 2, 2017, <http://www.visitrochester.com/blog/post/finding-frederick-douglass-in-rochester/>

Individuals in smaller villages and the more rural areas of the Finger Lakes were active in the abolitionist cause and Underground Railroad activity as well.⁷¹ Sherwood, a hamlet near Scipio in Cayuga County, was founded by a group of Quakers that settled near the Cayuga Indian Reservation during the 1790s as a response to the Treaty of Canandaigua. Sherwood's residents, which included African Americans, Quakers, and other reform-minded families, remained dedicated to the fight for equality for more than a century. Many were heavily involved in the Underground Railroad during the early 19th century and then turned their attention towards women's suffrage.⁷² Quaker meetinghouses in Farmington (Ontario County) and other rural settlements often hosted nationally known abolitionist speakers and helped enslaved individuals move north through the Underground Railroad.⁷³

Elmira became an important stop on the trail to freedom that led enslaved individuals to Canada. Elmira resident Jervis Langdon, Mark Twain's father-in-law, was an active supporter of Underground Railroad activities and befriended Frederick Douglass after the latter's escape to freedom in 1838.⁷⁴ John W. Jones escaped enslavement and arrived in Elmira via the Underground Railroad in 1844.

71 Cindy Ross, "The Underground Railroad," Life in the Finger Lakes, Winter 2007, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/underground-railroad/>; Judith Wellman, "Uncovering the Freedom Trail in Auburn and Cayuga County, New York" (City of Auburn Historic Resources Review Board and the Cayuga County Historian's Office, 2004-05).

72 National Park Service, "Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District," NRHP African American History Month.

73 "Farmington Quaker Crossroads Historic District," National Register of Historic Places (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2007).

74 "Jervis Langdon," Mark Twain Project, https://www.marktwainproject.org/biographies/bio_langdon_jervis.html.

Over the course of the next two decades, he aided more than 800 freedom seekers on their journey to Canada. Jones was named sexton of the Woodlawn Cemetery in 1859 and was charged with burying the Confederate dead from Elmira Prison Camp. He oversaw almost 3,000 Confederate burials during the war.⁷⁵

Auburn was home to William H. Seward, a prominent New York politician and abolitionist who served as a two-term governor of New York (1839–1842), New York State Senator (1849–1861), and US Secretary of State under President Abraham Lincoln and President Andrew Johnson (1861–1869). Seward was active in the Underground Railroad and often hosted nationally recognized antislavery crusaders during his time in Auburn.⁷⁶ In 1859, noted Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman purchased a small piece of land from William Seward, who she had come to know through their abolitionist associations. Harriet Tubman travelled north from a Maryland plantation to escape enslavement in 1849 and, over the next 10 years, made 13 additional trips into Maryland to help other enslaved African Americans navigate the Underground Railroad to freedom in northern states or Canada. Tubman moved her elderly parents, who she had helped flee to Ontario, Canada, in 1858, to the Cayuga County property and continued guiding enslaved African Americans north to Canada until the Civil War. After the war, she returned to Auburn

to care for them and other aging African Americans and shifted her focus toward supporting other reform movements. In 1896, Tubman purchased 25 additional acres in Auburn to create the Home for the Aged and Indigent Negroes, which included a hospital, pig farm, apple orchard, and vegetable garden. Tubman lived in Auburn until her death in 1913, spending the last few years of her life as a resident of the home she created.⁷⁷

Many reformers interested in ending slavery were also interested in gaining rights for women. The Posts, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and other antislavery advocates strongly supported women's rights. Finger Lakes residences were in the unique position to see a matriarchal culture firsthand in Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) communities found throughout central New York. Haudenosaunee Nations allowed women to hold leadership positions in clans, deferred to female elders on decisions of war, and acknowledged women's rights to property. Nineteenth-century residents of the Haudenosaunee homelands in New York would have regular opportunities to interact with nation members and witness a model for equal rights between the sexes.⁷⁸

Seneca Falls, which grew as a commercial center as a result of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal and mills that were powered by the village's namesake waterfall, became a center for abolitionists, Quakers, and other social reformers during the mid-19th century.

75 "About John W. Jones," John W. Jones Museum, <https://www.johnwjonesmuseum.org/about>.

76 C.W. McKeen, "William Henry Seward aided runaways at his Auburn house as he rose to power," Syracuse.com, March 23, 2019, https://www.syracuse.com/news/2005/02/seward_aided_runaways.html; Robert Hill, "The Slave and the Diplomat," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, August 12, 2018, <https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2018/08/13/The-slave-and-the-diplomat/stories/201808110007>.

77 National Park Service, "Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged & Indigent Negroes," October 23, 2018, <https://www.nps.gov/places/tubmanagedhome.htm>.

78 Sally Roesch Wagner, *Sisters in Spirit: Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on Early Feminists* (Summertown, TN: Native Voices, 2001); Sally Roesch Wagner, "We Want Equal Rights! The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Influence on the Women's Rights Movement" (Summertown, TN: Native Voices, 2020), 16.

Seneca Falls resident Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Thomas and Mary Anne M’Clintock of Waterloo, and Lucretia Mott—a Philadelphia women’s rights advocate with a national reputation—organized the first Women’s Rights Convention. Stanton and Mott had personal connections with the Haudenosaunee Nations, with Stanton growing up in central New York and personal relationships with members of the Oneida and Onondaga Nations and Mott visiting the Cattaraugus community during her travels prior to the convention.⁷⁹ The convention, which was the first of its kind organized by women, was held in Seneca Falls on July 19–20, 1848, and produced a signed Declaration of Sentiments outlining the need for moral, economic, and political equality for women.⁸⁰ The event was succeeded by a follow-up convention in Rochester two weeks later (August 2, 1848).

The Declaration of Sentiments and conventions spurred the national conversation about women’s rights and inspired the actions of other socially progressive women in central New York.⁸¹ Seneca Falls resident Amelia Bloomer—a native of Homer (Cortland County)—attended the 1848 convention. The following year she founded the *Lily*, a biweekly newspaper dedicated to women that included messages of temperance, suffrage, and dress reform—the movement away from traditional,

restrictive corsets and dresses for women. She also served as the assistant postmaster for Seneca Falls, using her office as a center for the community’s progressive movements during the early 1850s.⁸²

In 1852, Syracuse hosted the third National Women’s Rights Convention, inspiring even more women to enthusiastically join the cause. Susan B. Anthony, an active abolitionist from Rochester, attended the 1852 convention. After the Civil War, she shifted her political focus towards women’s suffrage. Her Rochester home became the headquarters of the Equal Rights Association and the scene of her arrest after illegally casting a ballot in the 1872 presidential election.⁸³ Matilda Joslyn Gage, a Fayetteville (Onondaga County) resident, was known for assisting the Underground Railroad during the 1840s and 1850s and supporting Native nations’ treaty rights, but the 1852 Syracuse convention marked the beginning of her public support of women’s rights and suffrage. Gage, who was honorarily adopted into the Mohawk Nation’s Wolf Clan, brought her reverence for Haudenosaunee culture and its equality between the sexes to the numerous positions she held in the National Women’s Suffrage Association, founded in 1869; she ultimately provided leadership for the organization for more than 20 years.⁸⁴

79 Wagner, *Sisters in Spirit*, 32.

80 National Park Service, “History and Culture,” Women’s Rights National Historical Park, <https://www.nps.gov/wori/learn/historyculture/index.htm>; National Park Service, Women’s Rights National Historical Park Foundation Document; National Park Service, “Elizabeth Cady Stanton,” Women’s Rights National Historical Park, <https://www.nps.gov/wori/learn/historyculture/elizabeth-cady-stanton.htm>.

81 “Women’s Rights and Feminism,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1712.

82 Arlisha R. Norwood, “Amelia Bloomer,” National Women’s Historic Museum, 2017, <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/amelia-bloomer>.

83 National Park Service, “Susan B. Anthony House,” <https://www.nps.gov/places/anthonyhouse.htm>.

84 Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation, “Who Was Matilda Jocelyn Gage?” 2018, <https://matildajoslyngage.org/about-gage>.

Institutions of higher learning that taught humanities and progressive ideals embodied in the region's social movements quickly appeared throughout the Finger Lakes.

Geneva Academy was officially chartered as Geneva College in 1825. (The college's name changed to Hobart Free College in 1852 to honor the school's founder Bishop Hobart and is now known as Hobart College.) Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to earn a medical degree when she graduated from Geneva College's medical school in 1849. New York Central College, Mcgrawsville, was established by antislavery Baptists as the first institution founded to accept all students, regardless of gender or race. The integrated, coeducational college also employed African American faculty during its 12-year existence (1849–1860).⁸⁵ Founded in 1855, Elmira College became one of the earliest colleges for women that granted degrees that were equivalent to those given to men.

The Finger Lakes continued to foster progressive thought and create agents of social change into the 20th century. Near the end of the 19th century, some Finger Lake natives embodied the region's social reform and went on to share their progressive agendas on a national stage. Robert Green Ingersoll, a native of Dresden who gained fame as “The Great Agnostic,” emerged as one of the most popular post-Civil War orators and free thinkers in the country.⁸⁶ Belva Lockwood earned a degree from Genesee College in Lima (Livingston County)

before teaching at a variety of girls' academies in central New York. During her three years of teaching at a female seminary in Owego, Lockwood incorporated Susan B. Anthony's approach to education and expanded curriculum to include business, public speaking, botany, and other subjects not traditionally taught to women and ultimately decided to pursue law. Lockwood moved to Washington, DC, and she eventually became the first woman to argue before the Supreme Court and the first woman to officially run for president when she was included on the ballot during the 1880 and 1884 national elections. Amelia Stone Quinton, who was raised in Jamesville (Onondaga County), went on to found the Women's National Indian Association in 1879; the national organization supported assimilation through Christian missionary work, lobbied for Congress to uphold treaties with Native nations, and spoke out against white encroachment and settlement in the Oklahoma Indian Territory.

Mary Clark Thompson, the daughter of New York governor Myron Clark, grew up in Canandaigua and attended school at the Ontario Female Seminary. After marrying banker Frederick Ferris Thompson—one of the founders of the First National Bank of New York and the Chase Bank of New York—and moving to New York City, Mary convinced her husband to spend the summers in Canandaigua. Clark Thompson became a generous benefactor for both communities she lived in by donating to civic, religious, and educational institutions. She was one of the founders of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art and a donor to the Bronx Zoo, Women's Hospital, and several colleges. She shaped civic life in early 20th-century Canandaigua by establishing the F. F. Thompson Hospital and Chase Retirement

85 Syracuse.com, “Blacks and whites studied and worked together at pre-Civil War college,” Syracuse.com, Feb. 3, 2012, https://www.syracuse.com/news/2012/02/new_york_central_college.html.

86 Center for Inquiry, “Robert Green Ingersoll Biography,” Free Inquiry, <https://secularhumanism.org/ingersoll-museum/>.

Home and donating to construct the city’s post office. She also provided support to the Ontario County historical society and the Wood Library.⁸⁷

Harriet May Mills, born in Syracuse a few years after the city hosted the 1852 National Women’s Conference, represented the next generation in the ongoing fight for women’s suffrage. Mills worked tirelessly organizing women’s rights conferences and suffrage events across the country, helping build support in New York, California, Michigan, and Ohio and serving as a leader in national suffrage and Democratic political organizations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.⁸⁸

Soon after the Civil War, Waterloo (Seneca County) was the site of the first formal, village-wide, annual observance of a day dedicated to those who had died during war. Local druggist Henry C. Welles and Seneca County Clerk and Civil War brigadier general John B. Murray led efforts to decorate soldiers’ graves and hold remembrance ceremonies for the dead in May 1866, 1867, and 1868. In that year, the holiday—then called Decoration Day and now known as Memorial Day—was nationally proclaimed by the Grand Army of the Republic and celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery.⁸⁹ Clara Barton visited Dansville as a tour stop during the late 1860s to give lectures on her experiences as a Civil War nurse. She

87 “Thompson, Mary Clark (1835-1923),” Special Collections, Williams College, <https://specialcollections.williams.edu/williams-history/biographies/mary-clark-thompson-1835-1923/>.

88 Hilda R. Watrous, “Introduction to Harriet May Mills, 1857-1935,” Harriet May Mills House, 1984, <http://www.harrietmaymills.org/hmm.html>.

89 “The History and Origin of Memorial Day in Waterloo,” Waterloo, New York, <http://waterloony.com/memorial-day/history/>.

later returned to the Livingston County community to stay at the “Our Home on the Hillside” sanitarium and health spa before purchasing a home in the community. During this time, Barton worked tirelessly to organize a national health organization modeled after the International Committee of the Red Cross, finally establishing the American Association of the Red Cross in May 1881. The first local chapter of the new organization was chartered in Dansville in August of that year. Barton was an ardent suffragist and continued to support the cause after she moved from Dansville to Washington, DC, in 1896.⁹⁰

Railroad and Economic Diversification

Canals were the first transportation revolution in New York, but they were eclipsed in a few decades by extensive railroad development. Starting in the 1840s, railroads shipped goods faster than canal barges and provided additional inland routes to the Midwest as it emerged as the breadbasket of the expanding nation. These western routes resulted in an agricultural shift in the Finger Lakes region. Instead of focusing on wheat, a product that could easily be milled and shipped long distances, many Finger Lakes farmers switched to commercially growing fruits and vegetables, meat, and dairy that railroads could deliver to the growing urban populations.⁹¹

With its relatively temperate climate, Yates County earned the reputation as the “Fruit Basket of New York State” for the many acres of commercial peaches, plum, apricot, and apple orchards along the shores of Seneca,

90 Rochester Regional Library Council, “Clara Barton,” Western New York Suffragists: Winning the Vote, <https://rrlc.org/winningthevote/biographies/clara-barton/>.

91 Menje, “Finger Lakes,” 561.

Keuka, and Canandaigua Lakes.⁹² Wayne County, along the shore of Lake Ontario, became the top apple producer in the state. Canneries appeared around the canals to process the many fruits and vegetables grown in the region. Dairies and dairy-related crops became increasingly common in Ontario and Steuben Counties. New York State agriculture peaked during the mid-19th century. During the 1850s, Wayne County produced approximately 50% of the nation's peppermint oil.⁹³ Skaneateles was a center of the teasel industry in the United States, growing more of the thistles—used to brush woolen fabric at cloth mills—than anywhere else in the country.⁹⁴ Geneva (Ontario County) on the northern shore of Seneca Lake and Rochester (Monroe County) became known for ornamental tree and fruit tree nurseries. By the 1870s, the Rochester area was no longer known as the “flour city” but rather “the flower city” and the horticultural center of the nation.⁹⁵ Chemung County gained a reputation for high-quality butter and leaf tobacco, as well as its celery, which was considered a luxury item and status symbol in Victorian cuisine.⁹⁶

As part of New York State's agricultural success, Finger Lakes wine gained an international reputation. The wine industry the Finger Lakes region is now known for was started in the 1830s. Hearty, native species of grapes were widespread across the Northeast and gathered by the Haudenosaunee. In 1829, Reverend William Bostwick planted native

Catawba and Isabella grapes at his rectory in Hammondsport for use in sacramental wine production. A few years later in 1836, the first commercial grape grower and wine producer in the Finger Lakes, J.W. Prentiss, sold grapes grown on the shores of Keuka Lake to cities across the eastern United States through canal transportation corridors. Prentiss's wine was not especially well received, considering he wasn't an experienced winemaker, and the majority of rural Americans in the early 19th century drank hard cider created from their own apple orchards. German immigrants in cities preferred beer brewed at local, small-scale breweries to wine. While Prentiss did not experience broad success, his operation piqued the interest of skilled winemakers from the Ohio Valley who brought commercial success to Finger Lakes' vineyards a few decades later.⁹⁷

The Finger Lakes wine industry expanded during the 1860s with vineyards appearing around Keuka, Seneca, and Cayuga Lakes—the larger and deeper the lake, the better regulated the shorelines' temperatures. Skilled winemakers took control of the production side of the business; more than 3,000 acres of grape vines were planted along the shores of Keuka, Canandaigua, and Seneca Lakes during the 1860s, and barges of grapes became a common sight on the Cayuga-Seneca and Crooked Lake Canals.⁹⁸

92 Falk, *Culinary History*, 50.

93 Cohen, “Wayne County,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1679.

94 Patricia Blackler, “Skaneateles,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1415–1416.

95 Grebinger and Goodridge, “Horticulture,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 733.

96 Heather Wade, “Chemung County,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 316.

97 Falk, *Culinary History*, 50–54; Finger Lakes Wine Alliance, “History,” <https://www.fingerlakeswinealliance.com/trade/history/>; Finger Lakes Wine Alliance, “History Timeline,” https://www.fingerlakeswinealliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/flwa_press_kit_history_timeline.pdf; Alice Askins, “Cordial and Nourishing: Early Wine History of the Finger Lakes,” Geneva Historical Society, August 24, 2017, <https://genevahistoricalociety.com/food-and-cooking/early-wine-history-finger-lakes/>;

98 Sarah S. Thompson, *Finger Lakes Wine County*, 8.

Reminded of France’s Champagne region by the soil and climate conditions found near Keuka Lake, Charles Champlin founded Pleasant Valley Winery in Hammondsport and began planting Champagne grapes in America.⁹⁹ Pleasant Valley Winery in Hammondsport became the first bonded winery in the United States in 1860.¹⁰⁰

Under the supervision of two master French winemakers hired by Champlin, Great Western Champagne made by Pleasant Valley Winery was introduced in Europe in 1867 to surprising acclaim. Demand for Finger Lakes champagne increased after an 1873 win at an international wine competition in Vienna, Austria. Over the next decades, the industry grew exponentially; by 1900, the region included 20,000 acres of vineyards and more than 50 wineries producing more than 7 million bottles of champagne, twice as much sparkling wine than all other states combined.¹⁰¹

Early entrepreneurs recognized the economic potential held in the waters of the Finger Lakes-Genesee Valley. In 1864, “the Father of American Fish Culture” Seth Green selected Caledonia’s Spring Creek (Livingston County) as the location of the nation’s first fish hatchery because of the area’s clear water, consistent water temperature and flow rate, and low amount of surface runoff that could muddy the stream, calling Spring Creek “one of the best places we have ever seen for the purpose, and we doubt it can be equaled.” Green grew the hatchery

into a business, shipping eggs and spawn worldwide via Caledonia’s three railroad connections and providing trout stock for the many public lakes and rivers. The State of New York purchased the Caledonia Hatchery from Green in 1875 and named him Supervisor of Fisheries, the government position responsible for stocking the state’s waterways.¹⁰²

During the Civil War, railroads continued to expand in the Finger Lakes region, providing businesses a quicker way to move agricultural products and manufactured goods to market. This shift and the increased connectivity provided by railroads facilitated industrialization within the Finger Lakes region. The region’s major cities of Rochester and Syracuse embraced industrialization and large-scale manufacturing. Rochester became a seat of technological innovation, with the founding of Bausch & Lomb (founded 1853, eyeglasses and frames), Eastman Kodak (incorporated 1892, photographic cameras and flexible film), and Xerox (founded 1906, photography paper).¹⁰³ Syracuse became a hub of industrial activity with firms producing typewriters, soda ash, farm implements, automobiles, shoes, iron and steel, food products.¹⁰⁴ The city was also the first home of Carrier Engineering Corporation (founded 1915), a company founded by the inventor of modern air conditioning Willis Carrier to create heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.¹⁰⁵

99 Ray Levato, “A Sparkling History: Great Western Winery,” *Life in the Finger Lakes*, Sept-Oct. 2016, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/sparkling-history-great-western-winery/>.

100 “Bonded” is a status related to taxation. Falk, *Culinary History*, 52; Pleasant Valley Wine Company, “Our History,” <https://www.pleasantvalleywine.com/history/>.

101 Falk, *Culinary History*, 52.

102 “The Caledonia Hatchery,” Open Valleys, <https://openvalley.org/exhibits/show/seth-green--home-waters/1-;> Sylvia R. Black, “Seth Green: Father of Fish Culture,” *Rochester History* 6.3 (July 1944), 1-24.

103 Carolyn Vacca, “Monroe County, *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 999.

104 “Syracuse,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1519.

105 Carrier, “Willis Carrier,” 2020, <http://www.williscarrier.com/>.

Smaller communities throughout the region also embraced manufacturing and used industrialized processes to produce brooms, agricultural tools and machinery, gypsum, cloth, wood items, caskets, clocks, buttons, and globes into the 20th century. Seneca Falls became a center for mechanical pump manufacturing and later fire engines.¹⁰⁶ In 1873, Cortland’s Chester Wickwire modified a carpet loom to cheaply and efficiently weave wire; by the 1880s, the Wickwire Brothers Factory manufactured numerous products that benefitted rural Americans: window screens, horse muzzles, seed spreaders, strainers, chicken wire, and barbed wire.¹⁰⁷ Corning became the home of some of America’s best cut glass starting in the 1880s and one of the first industrial research labs in 1908.¹⁰⁸ Hammondsport native Glenn H. Curtiss first made a name for himself manufacturing motorcycles but became one of the founders of American aviation when he applied his lightweight motor to aircraft. Curtiss was a founding member of the Aerial Experiment Association and formed the Curtiss Aeroplane Company in 1910. The company—which was later known as the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company—grew to become the world’s largest aviation manufacturer during World War I, employing 3,000 people at its Hammondsport location and an additional 18,000 people at the Buffalo, New York, facility that became the company’s headquarters in 1918.¹⁰⁹

Central New York was also connected to design elements that have come to define the

106 Lisa Compton, “Seneca Falls,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1393.

107 “The Factory,” 1890 House Museum, <http://the1890house.org/the-factory/>.

108 Joseph W. Brownell, “Cortland County,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 403–404.

109 Curtiss-Wright Corporation, “Early Years,” <https://www.curtisswright.com/company/history/>.

early 20th-century American architectural arts. The Stickley Brothers started a furniture company in Fayetteville (Onondaga County) in 1900 that became a leader in the Arts and Crafts Movement. Their Craftsman-style furniture was built to be “honest,” which was a departure from the gaudy style of the late 19th century and low-quality pieces that were being created in early industrial furniture factories, and the company’s Mission Oak designs showcase high-quality wood, natural finishes, and simplicity.¹¹⁰ Irene Sargent, a professor at Syracuse’s College of Fine Arts and an Auburn native, helped further popularize the Arts and Crafts Movement by launching *The Craftsman*, a monthly style journal that showcased the style. Sargent was the magazine’s managing editor and layout designer during its 15-year run (1901–1916).¹¹¹

The increase in capital and philanthropy in the Finger Lakes’ manufacturing sector following the Civil War allowed higher education to flourish. Additional institutions of higher learning were established throughout the region: Wells College (Aurora), founded as a women’s college in 1868; Syracuse University, established in 1870 as a coeducational college; Keuka College (Keuka Park), founded in 1890 as an institution that any could attend regardless of economic background; Ithaca College, founded as a music conservancy in 1892; the University of Rochester began admitting female students in 1900; as well as the William Smith School for Women (Geneva), and the sister school for Geneva College in 1908.

110 “The Stickley Museum” Stickley Furniture Company, <https://www.stickley.com/museum/>.

111 Syracuse University, “Irene Sargent Collection,” Syracuse University Libraries-Special Collections Research Center, https://library.syr.edu/digital/guides_sua/html/sua_sargent_i.htm.

Although industry's influence grew in post-Civil War decades, the majority of the Finger Lakes region continued to be rural and rely on agricultural products for income. Chartered to support the 1862 Morrill Land Grant Act, Cornell University opened in the fall of 1868 and welcomed the largest entering class at any American university up to that time. Although Cornell was chartered as a private university, it was required to offer courses focusing on agriculture and industrial arts as New York's land grant college focused on bringing the benefits of higher education to a wider population through research and outreach. The university formally opened its Department of Agriculture in 1874 and later merged the agriculture, chemistry, botany, entomology, and veterinary medicine departments to create the College of Agriculture in 1888.¹¹²

Knowing that eastern states would need to improve farming practices to remain competitive with western states in the decades that followed the Civil War, the State of New York established the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in 1880. Located in Geneva (Ontario County), the research facility used scientific methodology to research and examine agricultural production and practices.¹¹³ When the station opened in 1882, scientists focused on the study of vegetable and grain varieties, horticultural practices, and the dairy industry; over the next decade, the program expanded to include research on fruit varieties, swine, and beef cattle.

112 Carol Kammen, "Cornell University," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 398; Cornell University, "Our History," Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Science, <https://cals.cornell.edu/about/our-values-impact/our-history>.

113 Paul Grebinger and Monette Goodridge, "Horticulture," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 733.

In the 1890s, the typical Finger Lakes farm was modestly sized and diversified.¹¹⁴ Most families had cows, pigs, chickens and substantial gardens that took advantage of the nutrient-rich soil and idealized growing conditions. Resembling times during the early canal era, agricultural products that could be locally processed were major sources of outside income for local farmers. Popular products from the Finger Lakes at the end of the 19th century were hops and barley that supported local breweries, sheep that provided wool and meat, black raspberries that could be made into dye for Jello— invented in Leroy, New York— apples for fresh sale, and grapes.¹¹⁵

Tourism

The geology and climate of the Finger Lakes region that produced the perfect environment for so many agricultural pursuits also presented a landscape of great natural beauty that has attracted tourism and recreation for more than 200 years. Wealthy elites from New York City began building homes at Skaneateles Lake as early as 1809, and mineral springs in Livingston County in the western portion of the greater Finger Lakes region attracted visitors starting in the 1820s.¹¹⁶ By the 1850s, health spas, springs resorts, and water-cure facilities drew bathers to Avon (Livingston County), Clifton Springs (Ontario County), and Breesport (Chemung County), but resort community development across the region picked up speed in the mid- and late-1800s.¹¹⁷ Rail and trolley connections from Syracuse fueled resort, summer home,

114 Falk, *Culinary History*, 54.

115 *Ibid.*

116 Dwight H. Bruce, *Onondaga's Centennial "History of the Town of Skaneateles," 1896*, <https://web.cortland.edu/woosterk/ononcent.html>.

117 "Resort Hotels," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1302.

and cottage development along Oneida Lake, Onondaga Lake, and the eastern-most Finger Lakes. Prominent Rochester residents were attracted to the smaller, western Finger Lakes—Honeoye, Hemlock, and Canadice Lakes—and built cottages, summer homes, and resort communities.¹¹⁸ Amusements parks, such as Rochester’s Seabreeze Amusement Park (opened 1879 and home to the oldest continually operating roller coaster in America), Syracuse’s Long Branch Amusement Park (opened 1882), Canandaigua’s Roseland Park (opened 1925), and Elmira’s Eldridge Park (opened 1926), offered locals and visitors alike attractions including carousels, roller coasters, trolleys, dance halls, and picnic pavilions.

Boating became a popular Finger Lakes pastime.¹¹⁹ Steamboats and ferries once used to transport canal shipments saw a resurgence in recreational uses as excursion boats. Increased demand for scenic boating created heavy competition between local commercial boating enterprises, as rival companies attempted to monopolize the market and drive competitors out of business during the Keuka Lake Steamboat Wars of the 1870s and 1880s.¹²⁰ Boatyards became a common site along the shores of Seneca and Keuka Lakes.¹²¹ More than 40 commercial

118 Honeoye Lake Watershed, “History of Honeoye Lake” Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force, <https://www.honeoyelakewatershed.org/history>; “History of Hemlock NY,” Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, https://www.hemlockandcanadicelakes.com/hcl_community_hemlock_history.htm.

119 “Boat Builders,” Finger Lakes Boat Museum, <https://www.flbm.org/boatbuilders>.

120 “The Keuka Lake Steamboat ‘Wars,’” Yates County History Center, July 2008, <http://www.yatespast.org/articles/klsteamboats.html>.

121 Alta E. Boyer, “When Lake Boats Ruled Our Waves,” Life in the Finger Lakes, Spring 2007, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/when-lake-boats-rules-our-waves/>.

boat builders were active in the Finger Lakes during the early 1900s, creating watercrafts ranging from canoes to trout boats to racing sailboats to outboard motorboats widely sold through national mail order catalogues.¹²²

One famous Finger Lakes summer resident was Mark Twain, who was attracted to the rural setting of the southern tier. Twain’s wife Olivia was from Elmira (Chemung County), and in the 1870s the couple spent time at Quarry Farms, a property owned by Olivia’s sister Susan Crane and her husband Theodore. Over the course of 20 years of summers at Quarry Farm, Twain wrote some of his most well-known works, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *The Prince and the Pauper* (1882), and one of his memoirs *Life on the Mississippi* (1883). Twain credited the bucolic rural atmosphere of the Chemung River Valley for his productivity and compared steamboat traffic on the Chemung River to that of the Mississippi River he experienced in his early life.¹²³

By the first few decades of the 20th century, Finger Lakes communities recognized the economic potential of recreation and the importance of capturing the attention of industrialists with disposable income and the desire to spend time away from increasingly crowded urban areas. The introduction and proliferation of the automobile as a mode of personal transportation provided new opportunities for tourism within the region. In 1919, community leaders interested in boosting the Finger Lake’s profile to potential

122 “Boat Builders,” Finger Lakes Boat Museum, <https://www.flbm.org/boatbuilders>.

123 NPR, “Twain’s Summer Home: Visit Elmira,” November 30, 2010, <https://www.npr.org/2010/11/30/131699840/twain-s-summer-home-visiting-elmira-new-york>; “Mark Twain in Elmira,” Center for Mark Twain Studies, <https://marktwainstudies.com/about/mark-twain-in-elmira/>.

visitors met in Auburn to discuss cooperative marketing, cohesive signage, and how to accommodate gasoline-powered personal vehicles; the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance was created as one of the earliest destination marketing organizations in the nation, guiding people to the natural wonders of the lakes, gorges, waterfalls, and scenery associated with the region.¹²⁴

Automobile tourism also increased the motoring public's interest in both manmade and natural roadside attractions. The rapid rise in personal mobility experienced at the beginning of the 20th century, combined with the growing national conservation movement that took root following the Civil War, sparked the development of state parks across the nation.¹²⁵ Faced with growing cities, increased industrialization, overcrowded urban areas, and a surplus of endangered resources or unproductive farmland, New York State created the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve—the state's first large-scale conservation project—and the state reservation at Niagara Falls—New York's first state park—in 1885. In 1895, the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society was founded in New York as the first national preservation lobbying group to protect natural scenery. The society took an active land management role in the state of New York by purchasing properties of natural interest and opening the sites to the public. Two of the Finger Lake Region's earliest parks

were managed by the Society when they first opened. Letchworth Park (Livingston and Wyoming Counties), which includes the “Grand Canyon of the East” and numerous waterfalls created by the Genesee River, was donated to the state of New York in 1906 by businessman William Pryor Letchworth.¹²⁶ Watkins Glen (Tompkins County), which is known for its 19 waterfalls and gorges, first opened as a commercial venture in 1863, but was purchased by New York State in 1906 and opened for visitors free of charge.¹²⁷

The 1920s became a major decade in the creation of New York state parks in the region. “A State Park Plan for New York,” completed in 1922, was the first statewide comprehensive park planning effort in the nation; the document included a detailed park planning philosophy, a comprehensive plan, and administrative structure, highlighting socially progressive ideals of the early 20th century. The plan advocated for ensuring public access to parks and embracing the potential for recreational driving to bring visitors to and between parks, as well as divided the state into distinctive regions to analyze needs and propose new facilities across the state. Plans for the Finger Lakes region included improving state highways through the towns and villages connected to Watkins Glen State Park and created several new parks to highlight the waterfalls and gorges that surrounded the central Finger Lakes.¹²⁸

124 Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, “Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance 100th Anniversary,” <https://www.fingerlakes.org/finger-lakes-tourism-alliance-100th-anniversary/>; Laurel C. Wemett, “Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance Celebrates 100 Years,” *Line in the Finger Lakes*, July/August 2019, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/finger-lakes-tourism-alliance-celebrates-100-years/>.

125 “Who was Robert H. Treman?” Friends of Treman, <https://friendsoftr eman.wordpress.com/who-was-robert-h-treman/>.

126 New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, “Letchworth State Park,” <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/79/details.aspx>.

127 New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, “Watkins Glen State Park,” <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/142/>; Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce, “Watkins Glen State Park History,” 2019, <https://www.watkinsglenchamber.com/watkins-glen-state-park-history>.

128 “State Parks,” in *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1459.

After the creation of the New York State Council of Parks in 1924 and the New York State Conservation Department's Division of Parks in 1926, sizable portions of the Finger Lakes' natural wonders were set aside for public enjoyment and state administration. However, Haudenosaunee Nations have no representation. Recognizing the natural beauty of the gorges surrounding Ithaca, local industrialist and businessman Robert H. Treman donated the former mill site at Enfield Falls to create Enfield Glen Reservation in 1920. Treman then served as the first chairman of the Finger Lakes State Park Commission and oversaw the expansion of state parks in the region.¹²⁹

Throughout the 1920s, eight additional state parks were established in the Finger Lakes region: Buttermilk Falls State Park (Tompkins County, 1924), Filmore Glen State Park (Cayuga County, 1925), Taughannock Falls State Park (Tompkins County, 1925), Clark Reservation State Park (Onondaga County, 1926), Cayuga Lake State Park (Seneca County, 1927), Fair Haven Beach State Park (Cayuga County, 1928), Green Lakes State Park (Onondaga County, 1928), and Stony Brook State Park (Steuben County, 1928).¹³⁰ These parks still protect landscape features associated with the Finger Lakes region's glacial past, including impressive waterfalls, deep gorges, dramatic ravines, and rolling terrain. Enfield Glen was renamed Robert H. Treman State Park in 1938.¹³¹

129 "Who was Robert H. Treman?" Friends of Treman, <https://friendsoftreman.wordpress.com/who-was-robert-h-treman/>.

130 National Heritage Trust and New York State Office of Parks & Recreation, *Fifty Years: New York State Parks 1924-1974* (National Heritage Trust, 1975).

131 "Who are We?" Friends of Treman, <https://friendsoftreman.wordpress.com/who-was-robert-h-treman/>.

Science, Technology, And Economic Opportunities

In 1904, the New York State legislature passed a bill to create the New York State College at Cornell. The bill created a land-grant college with an agriculture focus within Cornell and guaranteed fields of study related to agriculture would receive significant public funding.¹³² Land grant colleges emerge as a result of the Morris Act of 1902, which created a systemic process for recruiting, training, and graduating an ever-growing agricultural workforce and encouraging the hunger and need for more lands. The 1914 Smith-Lever Act provided federal funding for cooperation between agricultural colleges and area farmers; extension programs helped further Cornell's mission as a land-grant agricultural college and allowed the university to spread information and research through county extension agents. Cornell University's effectiveness and success made New York a leader in the cooperative extension programming.¹³³ In 1923, the New York State Agricultural Experimental Station in Geneva was rolled into Cornell University's agriculture program and began incorporating the fields of bacteriology, plant disease, and pests to help farmers better understand production and threats to area crops.¹³⁴

Academic interest in increasing rural productivity wasn't limited to crops and animal husbandry; home economics—the scientific study of domesticity—emerged as a course of instruction at the beginning of the

132 Carol Kammen, "Cornell University," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 397–398.

133 Cornell Cooperative Extension Steuben County, "History of Cooperative Extension," June 9, 2015, <http://putknowledgetowork.org/about-us/history-of-cooperative-extension>.

134 Marla A. Bennett, "Geneva Experiment Station," *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 632.

20th century. In 1901, Cornell University's College of Agriculture published Martha Van Rensselaer's *Saving Steps*, a seminal work that suggested scientific principles could help make housework and domestic tasks more efficient. The college also offered reading courses, study clubs, residential courses and non-credit courses for women. Faculty from Cornell's Department of Home Economics, established in 1907 within the College of Agriculture, were the first women appointed to professorships at Cornell and made innovations in food conservation, housing design, home management and budgeting, and ideas about child development throughout the first four decades of the 20th century. In 1925, Cornell moved the highly successful program into the newly created College of Home Economics, the first state-chartered school of its type in the country.¹³⁵

While New York State agricultural production remained strong, commercial viticulture struggled due to outside forces. The Finger Lakes continued to lead the nation in sparkling wine production in 1900, but events of the first three decades of the 20th century stymied the region's internationally known wine industry. The ratification of the 18th Amendment and start of Prohibition in 1919 forced many 19th-century Finger Lakes wine producers out of business, although six of the area's largest wineries were able to continue production of primarily native North American grapes by shifting their focus to sacramental wine, wine flavorings,

135 "From Domesticity to Modernity: What was Home Economics?" Division of Rare & Manuscript Collection, Carl A. Kroch Library-Cornell University, 2005, <https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/homeEc/cases/intro.html>; Joan Jacobs Brumberg, "Home Economics," Encyclopedia of New York State, 727-728; Cornell Cooperative Extension Steuben County, "History of Cooperative Extension," June 9, 2015, <http://putknowledgegetwork.org/about-us/history-of-cooperative-extension>.

and grape juice. When the 21st Amendment ended Prohibition in 1933, Finger Lakes grape growers struggled to reestablish the industry in the middle of the Great Depression.

Sailing, fishing, auto touring, and sightseeing continued to draw visitors to the Finger Lakes, and the 20th century brought new recreational opportunities and industries to the area. During the 1910s, advances by the Eastman Company (Rochester) made photography widely accessible and the company's development of flexible film ushered in the era of motion pictures.¹³⁶ Ithaca became a center of silent movies during the 1910s. The small town's mix of collegiate buildings, natural beauty, and urban setting attracted silent filmmakers Theodore and Leopold Wharton. The brothers leased 45 acres in what is now Stewart Park in downtown Ithaca and created the Wharton Studio in 1912. The studio hired young talent from locals for set builders, costuming, and cinematography and young acting talent from New York City to create dramas, comedies, mysteries, World War I propaganda, and popular serials between 1912 and 1919, the year the studio relocated to Santa Fe.¹³⁷ At the same time the Wharton's were popularizing silent films, the father and son duo of Willard and Theodore Case started a scientific laboratory focused on electricity on the Willard estate's greenhouse in Auburn

136 Kodak, "Chronology of Film," Kodak, <https://www.kodak.com/en/motion/page/chronology-of-film>.

137 Matt Butler, "Ithaca's Cinematic Past: Ithaca spots that were seen, not heard, in film," Ithaca.com, January 31, 2019, https://www.ithaca.com/special_sections/newcomers_guide/ithacas-cinematic-past-ithaca-spots-that-were-seen-not-heard-in-film/article_0ebcae0c-a4a5-11e8-b6a9-ef8270f9c2e5.html, Wharton Studio Museum, <https://whartonstudiomuseum.org/>; Diana Riesman, "October is Silent Movie Month in Ithaca. Let me tell you why....," Ithaca Heritage, October 3, 2018, <http://www.ithacaheritage.com/blog/2018/10/3/october-is-silent-movie-month-in-ithaca-let-me-tell-you-why>.

(Cayuga County). During the 1920s, the Case Research Lab developed a sound film and, through a partnership with William Fox of Fox Studios, commercialized the “Movietone” system that allowed film to simultaneously capture moving images and sound. By the end of the decade, movie theaters across the United States showed talking news reels and films with synchronized music and effects that showcased the potential of the Movietone camera and film system.¹³⁸

Nonmotorized flight first became popular in Germany following World War I after powered flight was limited under the Treaty of Versailles. It gained popularity in the United States during the late 1920s as more Americans wanted to fly but did not have the money to invest in an airplane. The National Glider Association, founded in 1929, selected the community of Elmira to host the first national soaring competition in 1930. Identified as a potential gliding destination because of its physical similarities to Wasserkuppe, the mountain that was Germany’s soaring center during the sport’s early years after World War I, Elmira embraced the early American soaring community, hosting the next 12 national soaring contests as well. During the 1930s, Works Project Administration crews constructed the first permanent site for soaring contests in America at Harris Hill Park, which was completed in 1938. The Schweizer Aircraft Corporation, incorporated in Horseheads in 1939, became a major manufacturer of sailplanes and gliders, producing more than half of all 20th century American-built sailplanes. Elmira was home to the Soaring Society of America headquarters at various points throughout

138 Cayuga Museum of History and Art, “Case Research Lab, 2019, <http://cayugamuseum.org/case-research-lab/>.

the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s and was the first site chosen for American glider pilot training during World War II.¹³⁹

Automobile road racing grew in popularity in the region after World War II as Schuyler County promoters and civic leaders searched for ways to extend the tourist season. The Village of Watkins Glen and the Sports Car Club of America staged the first Watkins Glen Grand Prix on October 2, 1948. For the first several years, the road course snaked through the village of Watkins Glen and the surrounding areas on 6.6 miles of existing road before a spectator’s death in 1952 moved the race onto country roads outside the village of Dix; a permanent circuit track was constructed in 1956.¹⁴⁰ Starting in 1961, Watkins Glen International hosted the Formula One United State Grand Prix for 20 consecutive years and continues to host road races across racing classes and series.

World War II

The bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, pushed a reluctant United States into World War II. Factories across the country, including those in central New York, answered President Franklin Roosevelt’s call for American manufacturers to shift

139 Harris Hill Soaring Corporation, “Stewards of History,” <http://harrishillsoaring.org/about-hhsc/>; National Soaring Museum, “The History of the National Soaring Museum, 2020, <https://www.soaringmuseum.org/soaring-history.php>; National Soaring Museum, “Edward F. Evans,” https://www.soaringmuseum.org/pdf/hof/pdf34_pdfbio.pdf, Warren Easton E. Motorless Flight Facility, National Register of Historic Places (Washington, DC; Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013).

140 Phil McCray, “Watkins Glen International,” Encyclopedia of New York State, 1676; Watkins Glen Grand Prix Course, 1948–1952, National Register of Historic Places (Washington, DC; Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2002).

production towards military preparedness. Between 1941 and 1945, Syracuse industries manufactured antiaircraft gun mounts, antitank landmines, rifles, machine guns, radar systems, and airplane and ship signaling lights.¹⁴¹ Syracuse University hosted the War Service College, the Cadet Nurse Corps, and the Army Specialized Training Program to train military and nonmilitary students for jobs that could help the war effort and purchased surrounding real estate to house troops while they were completing their courses.¹⁴² Bausch and Lomb in Rochester became the principle manufacturer of high-grade glass needed for reconnaissance cameras, bomb sights, binoculars, and other optical equipment used by the Army, Navy, and Air Force; between late 1941 and August 1944, the company produced four million pounds of glass. In total, approximately 120,000 men and women worked in Monroe County war production, and 38 companies earned Army-Navy E Awards for production excellence.¹⁴³ Employment in Elmira's 92 factories increased by 900% between December 1941 and December 1942, while 90% of its population worked on \$80 million in war contracts—the highest war manufacturing per capita in the country.¹⁴⁴ The Elmira Holding and Reconsignment

141 "Syracuse Gears Up for World War II as U.S. Declares War on Japan," Onondaga Historical Association, <https://www.cnyhistory.org/2014/12/syracuse-world-war-ii/>.

142 Syracuse University, "Syracuse University World War II Collection," Syracuse University Libraries-Special Collections Research Center, https://library.syr.edu/digital/guides_sua/html/sua_world_war_2.htm.

143 Bob Marcotte, "Arsenal of Freedom Part 2 Rochester War Plant Workers during World War II," Rochester History (66.2 Spring 2004), https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v66_2004/v66i2.pdf.

144 Jim Hare, "Elmira History: A 'boom town' in the 1940s," Star Gaze, October 17, 2016, 2020, <https://www.stargazette.com/story/news/local/twin-tiers-roots/2016/10/14/elmira-history-boom-town-1940s/91732650/>.

Point, a 670-acre facility established north of Horseheads (Chemung County) in December 1942, was one of 10 sites chosen to store tanks, guns, and other weapons before they were shipped overseas.¹⁴⁵

Military installations associated with World War II brought an additional industry to the largely rural areas in central New York. The Seneca Ordinance Depot, located in the town of Romulus in central Seneca County, opened in 1941 as an ammunition storage facility. The 11,500-acre facility ultimately displaced 150 family farms between Seneca and Cayuga lakes but brought 9,000 workers to the area for construction. The depot became one of Seneca County's biggest employers, eventually employing Italian prisoners of war and local women to keep up with the demand for workers. The depot was designed as one of the major ammunition depots for the East Coast, handling and storing some of the materials for the Manhattan Project as well as materials to support troops in the European theater. The Seneca Ordinance Depot, renamed the Seneca Army Depot in 1961, continued to serve as a major munitions supply and storage facility throughout the 20th century, expanding in the 1950s and 1960s to include the Sampson Air Force Base runway and the North Depot Area, a storage area opened in 1956 to house special weapons.¹⁴⁶

145 "The Holding Point," Chemung Historical Society, 2020, <https://cchsonlineexhibits.wixsite.com/towns-and-villages/the-holding-point>.

146 Anne M. Derosie, "Seneca County," Encyclopedia of New York State, 1391-1932; "Seneca [sic] Army Depot," New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, https://dmna.ny.gov/forts/fortsQ_S/senacaArmyDepot.htm; Walter Gable, "Complete History of Seneca Army Depot," "Our Finger Lakes History with Walter Gable," August 12, 2016, <https://fingerlakes1.com/2016/08/12/complete-history-of-the-seneca-army-depot-on-our-finger-lakes-history-with-walter-gable-on-fingerlakes1-tv/>.

The Sampson Naval Training Station, located at the north end of Seneca Lake, opened the next year. Between 1942 and 1945, more than 410,000 naval recruits were trained at Sampson. After the war, the training station evolved into a space for Sampson Veterans College before being converted into an Air Force base during the Korean War (1951–1956). After the training base’s closure, the land was eventually transferred to the State of New York in the 1960s and is now managed as Sampson State Park in Seneca County.¹⁴⁷ Around the same time of the naval training station closure, the Naval Sea Systems Command set up a sonar testing field station near Dresden (Yates County) on the west shore of Seneca Lake. Providing an ideal acoustic environment supported by the water’s near-constant temperature, depth that simulates an ocean environment, and canal connections to the Great Lakes that allows for easy transport of large barges and equipment, Seneca Lake has become the Navy’s primary sonar array calibration and testing facility for the United States’ underseas warfare system.¹⁴⁸

Having declared war on Germany in 1917 during World War I, Haudenosaunee peoples were more than ready to join the effort in World War II. As with all Native populations, Haudenosaunee peoples served the war effort in the military with the highest numbers per capita in the region. The Armed Forces History Museum estimates as many as 99% of eligible Native males enlisted during the war.¹⁴⁹

147 Sampson Naval Training Base, “New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, https://dmna.ny.gov/forts/fortsQ_S/sampsonNavalTrainingBase.htm; Ray Levato, “Testing, Testing...The Role of Seneca Lake in Our Nation’s Defense,” *Life in the Finger Lakes*, June 18, 2018, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/testing-testing-the-role-of-seneca-lake-in-our-nations-defense/>.

148 Levato, “Testing, Testing...”

149 “The Role of Native American’s During World War II,” Armed Forces History Museum, <https://www.lhschools.org/Downloads/Native%20Americans%20in%20WWII.pdf>.

Post-World War II Social Trends

Agriculture continued to be the foundation of the Finger Lakes economy, but cities and industries in central New York boomed after World War II. By 1950, 70% of Monroe County’s population lived in Rochester as the number of family farms in the surrounding countryside declined.¹⁵⁰ Chemung County’s economy shifted towards Elmira, Elmira Heights, and Horseheads, which offered returning soldiers factory jobs.¹⁵¹ Suburbs around Rochester and Syracuse grew during the 1950s and 1960s as communities such as Pittsford (Monroe County), Victor (Ontario County), and Fairport (Monroe County), Fayetteville (Onondaga County), Manlius (Onondaga County), Cicero (Onondaga County), saw population increases and development sprawl as young families moved out of urban environments—a national trend.

Educational institutions bolstered the region’s population. Syracuse University ranked first in New York State and 17th in the country for veteran enrollment, with the campus expanding and constructing temporary housing and classrooms to accommodate the “G.I. Bulge.”¹⁵² In the post-World War II years, Tompkins County experienced rapid growth and development because of Cornell University expansions to meet increased enrollment due to the G.I. Bill. Between 1940 and 1950, the county’s population increased by 28%; the population continued to increase by greater than 10% in each decade between

<https://www.lhschools.org/Downloads/Native%20Americans%20in%20WWII.pdf>.

150 Carolyn Vacca, “Monroe County,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1000.

151 Heather Wade, Chemung County, “*Encyclopedia of New York State*, 316.

152 Syracuse University, “Syracuse University World War II Collection,” Syracuse University Libraries-Special Collections Research Center, https://library.syr.edu/digital/guides_sua/html/sua_world_war_2.htm.

1950 and 1990 as more people were drawn to the collegiate atmosphere and rural setting.¹⁵³

Public universities in the state also boomed. While public facilities in New York already existed for teacher, agricultural, and technical training, there was no coordinating body for public higher education. The influx of veterans wanting to enroll during the 1940s and 1950s and elitist admission policies for private institutions pushed existing schools to organize into a centralized system that could support the state's growing educational needs. In 1948, 29 unaffiliated institutions consolidated to form the State University of New York (SUNY), what is now the largest comprehensive public university system in the country.¹⁵⁴ The system's enabling legislation authorized acquisition of two existing medical schools—one of which was the College of Medicine at Syracuse University—and the opening of up to 22 community colleges. While the system's growth during its first decade was slow, the creation of federal financial aid in 1958 as part of the National Defense Education Act and the election of Nelson Rockefeller as governor of New York State spurred a period of development. The Rockefeller campaign platform included expanding the SUNY system into communities suffering from economic decline and the state college system provided a high-quality education that could compete with any state school in the nation.¹⁵⁵ Numerous SUNY campuses opened in central New York including Monroe Community College (Rochester), Finger Lakes Community College, SUNY Corning Community

College, Cayuga County Community College (Auburn), Onondaga Community College, College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse), Tompkins Cortland Community College, SUNY Cortland, and numerous New York State Colleges at Cornell University (Ithaca).

With a strong economy, a long history of abolition, and a well-established African American community, Rochester appeared to be an ideal destination for African Americans leaving the Jim Crow South. Between 1945 and 1960, Rochester's African American population increased by 300%, with many new arrivals enrolling in Ph.D. programs at the city's numerous universities or pursuing agricultural opportunities in the rural communities that surrounded Rochester.¹⁵⁶ This abrupt demographic shift was made even more noticeable as Rochester's white population decreased because of increasing popularity of the suburbs with the white middle class. Redlining, segregated education, and over-policing plagued the city's predominantly African American wards during the 1950s and 1960s, with tensions exploding during the summer of 1964. Rochester's July 24–26, 1964, racial disturbances were some of the first during the “long hot summers” of civil unrest that came to define America in the mid- and late-1960s.¹⁵⁷

Syracuse, a popular destination for African Americans moving north during the early 20th century due to the number of available factory jobs, also experienced civil unrest and protests during the 1950s and 1960s.

153 Carol Kammen, “Tompkins County,” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1567.

154 “History of SUNY,” SUNY, 2020, <https://www.suny.edu/about/history/>.

155 Harold S. Wechsler, “State University of New York (SUNY),” *Encyclopedia of New York State*, 1472.

156 Laura Warren Hill, “Background,” Rochester Black Freedom Struggle Online Project, <https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/4489>.

157 “Rochester Race Riot Papers,” University of Rochester River Campus Library, <https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/finding-aids/D185>.

Urban renewal transformed the city’s 15th Ward—the home of many of the city’s Black-owned small businesses—through the development of the University Hospital and the Highway 81 overpass.¹⁵⁸ The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a national civil rights organization, planned a series of marches in the summer and fall of 1963 to protest substandard housing, de facto segregation, and urban renewal projects that disproportionately affected Syracuse’s African American community.¹⁵⁹

In the aftermath of the unrest, Rochester’s local black leaders recruited grassroots activist Saul Alinsky to create the social change organization FIGHT, an acronym standing for “Freedom, Integration (later replaced by “Independence”), God, Honor, Today.” Led by Minister Franklin Florence, the organization worked to improve civil, political, and economic rights in Rochester.

Federal legislation helped close the gap in minority hiring—another focus of FIGHT—although the organization singled out the local company Kodak to protest its continued racially biased hiring practices. By the late 1960s, local companies Kodak, Xerox, and Bausch and Lomb enacted recruitment and training programs aimed at the black community.¹⁶⁰ The Rochester Business Opportunities Council (RBOC), created

to meet FIGHT’s demands for additional economic opportunities and support of local minority businesses, became one of the inspirations for the federal Office of Minority Business Enterprise established by President Richard Nixon in 1969.¹⁶¹

That same year, Cornell University made headlines as the site of an unprecedented student protest. On the morning of Saturday, April 18, 1969, members of Cornell’s Afro-American Society (AAS) occupied Willard Straight Hall in response to a cross burning outside an on-campus African American women’s cooperative. More broadly, the group wanted to call attention and demand action to address racism at the institution and the university’s slow progress towards establishing a black studies program. After AAS members were attacked by fraternity brothers attempting to clear the building, the protesting black students armed themselves for protection against any other attempts at violence. Police support from as far as Rochester and Syracuse poured into Ithaca expecting the crisis to escalate, but the students emerged unharmed on Sunday morning after negotiations with Cornell officials. The 36-hour takeover made national news and the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of AAS students leaving Straight Hall with bayonets and rifles in hand made the cover of *Newsweek*.¹⁶² The radical takeover, which was the first instance of armed student protest on a college campus during the era shook the Cornell community, highlighted the explosiveness of racial politics

158 Black History Preservation Project, *Our Stories: A Virtual Black History Museum*, Syracuse, New York, <https://ourstories.syr.edu/exhibitmore.php>.

159 Onondaga Historical Association, “Syracuse: How far from Birmingham—The 1963 CORE Protests and the Racial Politics of Urban Renewal,” February 22, 2018, <https://www.cnyhistory.org/calendar/core-protests/>.

160 PBS, “July ‘64-The City,” James Goodman and Brian Sharp, “Riots Spawned FIGHT, Other Community Efforts,” *Democrat & Chronicle*, July 20, 2014, <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2014/07/19/franklin-florence-dorothy-hall-kodak-fight/12853477/>.

161 Laura Warren Hill, “Background,” Rochester Black Freedom Struggle Online Project, <https://rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/4489>.

162 George Lowery, “A campus takeover that symbolized an era of change,” *Cornell Chronicle*, April 16, 2019, <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2009/04/campus-takeover-symbolized-era-change>.

during the late 1960s and began the increase of growing calls for change and racial justice at the end of the decade.

Revitalization of the Finger Lakes Wine Region

The post-World War II years brought changes to the area's ailing wine industry, which was greatly diminished during the Prohibition. Soldiers who served in Europe brought back a taste for the less acidic, native European *Vitis vinifera* grape varieties, as opposed to the strong North American *Vitis labrusca*. New York grape growers began marketing grapes as a table fruit and tried to capitalize on the increased popularity of fruit juice during the 1940s and 1950s.¹⁶³ Initially, Finger Lakes winemakers had difficulty navigating the change in wine drinker palates and the rise of California wines. Most believed that *vinifera* vines would not be hearty enough to survive the cold temperatures experienced in central New York and continued to grow *labrusca* grapes and alter the resulting wine either through added sugar or diluting with water or neutral California wines to better align with prevailing tastes. French-American genetic hybrid vines created by cross-pollinating the *vinifera* and *labrusca* varieties resulted in vines that combined the North American vines resistance to disease and harsh winters with European varieties' complex flavors. Researchers at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station further developed hybrid vines suited for New York vineyards and in 1944, Gold Seal Winery in Hammondsport (Steuben County) became the first commercial winery of hybrids. However, hybrid *labrusca* varieties were not considered as complex as the true *vinifera* grown in Europe.

¹⁶³ Falk, *Culinary History*, 67; Sarah S. Thompson, *Finger Lakes Wine County* (Arcadia, 2015), 8.

Another boost to New York wineries came during the 1950s when Dr. Konstantin Frank arrived in the United States. Frank, a viticulture Ph.D. from Ukraine who wrote his thesis on growing *vinifera* grapes in cold climates, migrated to the United States in 1951 and convinced the president of Gold Seal Winery that *vinifera* could be successfully grown in the Finger Lakes if provided the proper rootstock.¹⁶⁴ After only a few years of work, Frank successfully grafted *vinifera* vines onto heartier North American *labrusca* rootstock. This breakthrough allowed Finger Lakes farmers to grow European grape varieties that could withstand the cold temperature with the right combination of rootstock, grape variety, soil condition, and microclimate and ushered in the "Vinifera Revolution" of the 1960s.¹⁶⁵

During the 1970s, California emerged as the leading American wine region. Of every nine bottles of wine sold in America at that time, seven were from California and one was from New York (with New York's contribution primarily champagne. Imports and wine from all other states combined accounted for the remaining one bottle.¹⁶⁶ Finger Lakes vineyards were purchased by large beverage

¹⁶⁴ Tom Russ, *Finger Lakes Wine and the Legacy of Dr. Konstantin Frank* (New York: History Press, 2015); Don Cazentre, "Grapes of Frank," *Central New York Magazine*, July-August 2008, <http://www.drfrankwines.com/media/2008CNY.pdf>.

¹⁶⁵ Falk, *Culinary History*, 76; "A Sparkling History: Great Western Winery," *Life in the Finger Lakes*, Sep/Oct. 2016, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/sparkling-history-great-western-winery/>; Eric Zelco, "Cultivating the Vine," *Ithaca.com*, July 2000, https://www.ithaca.com/news/local_news/cultivating-the-vine/article_9e1d907c-ab72-53bd-97cd-fe41d6e94ff2.html; Tom Russ, *Finger Lakes Wine and the Legacy of Dr. Konstantin Frank* (American Palate, 2015).

¹⁶⁶ "Vintage New York," *New York Times*, December 29, 1974, <https://www.nytimes.com/1974/12/29/archives/vintage-new-york-the-no-2-wine-state-started-inchampagne.html>

conglomerates throughout the 1970s, and many Finger Lakes wines were blended with California grapes, largely due to consumers preferring drier California wines. New York grape growers were limited by an antiquated state liquor taxation structure and the limits imposed on wine that could be sold directly to consumers at from production facilities. After a grassroots movement and extensive lobbying by Finger Lakes farmers, the New York State Farm Winery Act reinvigorated the local wine industry.

Passed in 1976, the Act allowed farmers to make wines onsite and sell directly to customers from their vineyards. This major shift allowed grape growers and wine makers to create products on their own terms and draw visitors to wineries for tastings and purchases. In response to the Act, Finger Lakes grape growers removed *labrusca* vines in favor of newly grafted Riesling, Chardonnay, and Pinot Noir plants. This shift to more popular wine varieties and onsite consumption and sale also allowed wineries to become destinations, offering tours, tastings, and on-site restaurants that highlighted food and wines made from local goods.¹⁶⁷

Cold War Politics

The Seneca Army Depot continued to be a major employer for Seneca County. While the US Army would not confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons during the Cold War, the increased military police presence, security protocol, and fencing hinted at the nature of some of the aging

¹⁶⁷ Falk, Culinary History, 93-98; Don Cazentre, "New York's Winery Boom Began 40 Years Ago: How a 1976 Law Change Everything," Syracuse.com, March 22, 2019, https://www.syracuse.com/drinks/2016/12/new_yorks_winery_boom_began_40.html.

weapons that made up the 80,000 to 100,000 tons of munitions housed at the facility. The association with nuclear warfare along with the pollution produced by disposing of obsolete ammunition through detonation in the depot's demolition pits eventually increased attention to activities at the depot.¹⁶⁸ During the summer and fall of 1983, thousands of people gathered outside the depot protesting the use of nuclear weapons. The Seneca Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice, an all-women, grassroots community set up on 52 acres adjacent to the Seneca Army Depot, became the training center for nonviolent protest and civil disobedience related to environmentalism, feminism, and civil rights throughout the summer.¹⁶⁹

Protest efforts garnered national attention in July 1983 when 200 protesters were arrested for scaling the depot fence, and there was a clash between locals and out-of-town protesters marching through the town of Waterloo; smaller protests and activist activities continued at the site into the 2000s. After Cold War hostilities cooled during the early 1990s, most weapons were removed from Seneca Army Depot; the base formally closed in 2000 and has since become home to a variety of uses including a correction center, educational facilities, and wildlife-environmental restoration.

¹⁶⁸ Walter Gable, "Complete History of Seneca Army Depot, "Our Finger Lakes History with Walter Gable," August 12, 2016, <https://fingerlakes1.com/2016/08/12/complete-history-of-the-seneca-army-depot-on-our-finger-lakes-history-with-walter-gable-on-fingerlakes1-tv/>; Women's Action for New Direction, "Pioneers of Policy and Peace: WEFPJ," March 15, 2018, <https://www.wand.org/post/2018/03/15/pioneers-of-policy-and-peace-wefpj>.
¹⁶⁹ Peace Encampment Herstory Project, "What was the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice (WEFPJ)?" Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice, March 15, 2020, <http://peacecampherstory.blogspot.com/>.

Today's Finger Lakes

The Finger Lake Region is best known for its continued connections to agriculture and tourism based on the region's natural resources and cultural traditions. Numerous Native nations residing in or maintaining traditional associations with the Finger Lakes continue to enrich the study area's cultural and economic life. The region continues to be a network of small and moderate-sized cities and villages, with the larger metropolises of Syracuse and Rochester as outliers in the northeast and northwest corners of the broader region. These regional hubs have earned distinction as national centers for various industries including advanced manufacturing; energy innovation; optics, photonics, and engineering; food science; health science; and software development—industries that have historic roots in the area.¹⁷⁰

Research institutions, universities, colleges, community colleges, and education extension programs employ thousands of people across the region and the prevalence of higher education continues to shape the culture of Syracuse, Rochester, and Ithaca, as well as smaller towns in the Finger Lakes region. Outside of the major cities, the region is largely rural and agricultural, capitalizing on the favorable growing conditions first identified by the Haudenosaunee in the centuries before European exploration in North America.

170 "Key Industries," Greater Rochester, NY Regional Economic Development, <https://www.rochesterbiz.com/Key-Industries>; "Syracuse-Economy," City Data, <http://www.city-data.com/us-cities/The-Northeast/Syracuse-Economy.html>.

The wine industry is one of the most prominent of the continued agricultural industries. The Finger Lakes region is known throughout the world for being a uniquely diverse wine region, producing seven major varieties of native *labrusca*, 18 major varieties of European-American hybrids, and at least 98 major *vinifera* varieties, while local growers and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva continue to research and create new varieties. In 1982, the Finger Lakes region was designated one of the first American Viticultural Areas—a winemaking region distinguished by its geographic, geologic, and climate features and recognized by the United States Treasury and Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. The Finger Lakes American Viticultural Area, which was the first to be recognized in New York State includes two smaller areas—Cayuga Lakes American Viticultural Area (designated 1988) and Seneca Lakes American Viticultural Area (designated in 2003)—and a total of more than 11,000 acres of vineyards.¹⁷¹ Although the Finger Lakes viticultural area is relatively small on a national scale, producing less than 3% of American wine, the region is home to more than 100 wineries clustered around Cayuga Lake, Seneca Lake, Keuka Lake, and Canandaigua Lake, and four wine trails.¹⁷²

Low land prices attracted another subsection of the agricultural community to the Finger Lakes. Beginning in the 1970s, Old Order

171 "Inside New York Wine Country," Wine Folly, August 10, 2015, <https://winefolly.com/deep-dive/guide-to-new-york-wine-country/>.

172 Falk, Culinary History, 110112; New York Wine & Grape Foundation, "Finger Lakes Region," <https://www.newyorkwines.org/wine-regions/finger-lakes>; Adam Teeter, "Your Guide to the Finger Lakes, the Most Exciting Wine Region on the East Coast of America," VinePair, <https://vinepair.com/articles/travel-guide-wine-finger-lakes/>.

Amish and Mennonite communities began moving from traditional population centers in Pennsylvania and settling in Yates, Seneca, and Ontario Counties. Their traditional agricultural practices seemed a good fit in the Finger Lakes, and New York has had the largest gain in Old Order households nationwide over the last 40 years.¹⁷³

Quality produce and artisan agricultural products continue to foster the farm-to-table ethic and highlight the growing conditions of the Finger Lakes region. According to a 2015 New York State Comptroller report, the Finger Lakes region led the state in amount of farmland, with 1.47 million acres, and total amount of farm sales. The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva is a leader in “agri-tech” and continues to push research forward on the production, protection, and utilization of fruit and vegetables, and the 850-acre research campus is now home to the US Department of Agriculture’s Plant Genetic Resources Unit. Cornell Orchard, managed by Cornell University’s horticulture program, has long been involved in developing experimental apple varieties. Onondaga, Cayuga, Wayne, Livingston, Ontario, and Steuben Counties recorded more than \$150 million in agricultural sales in 2012. The region ranks first in the state for production of apples, milk, grains, and dry beans.¹⁷⁴ Local restaurants,

farmers markets, community-supported agriculture programs, and agritourism harken back to the earliest settlement in the region.¹⁷⁵

Recreational tourism has become one of the region’s leading industries. The region’s 1,063 waterfalls and gorges, 26 state parks, 16,036-acre national forest, a portion of the North Country National Scenic Trail, 2,000 miles of hiking and biking trails, 96 public campgrounds, and 650 miles of shoreline continue to draw visitors to the area, where they can also enjoy more than 400 registered historic sites and landmarks, more than 135 museums, and 40 nature centers.¹⁷⁶ In 2018 alone, more than 5.5 million people visited the Finger Lakes and spent more than \$2.4 billion in the region.¹⁷⁷

175 Falk, *Culinary History*, 119–121.

176 Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, “Quick Facts About the Finger Lakes,” <https://www.fingerlakes.org/explore/quick-facts>.

177 Travel Market Insights, “Comprehensive Regional Travel and Tourism Study and Recommendations-Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance,” January 2019, https://www.fingerlakes.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/FLTA%20Comprehensive%20Visitor%20Study%20Report_0.pdf.

173 John Adamski, “Old Order Cultures in the Finger Lakes,” *Life in the Finger Lakes*, Jul/Aug 2015, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/old-order-cultures-in-the-finger-lakes/>.

174 Thomas P. DiNapoli, “The Importance of Agriculture to the New York State Economy,” Office of the New York State Comptroller, March 2015, https://nycfoodpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/importance_agriculture_ny1.pdf.

Chapter 3

Study Area's Contributions to National Heritage and Potential Themes





Photo, Front and Back

Commemoration of the 228th anniversary of the Treaty of Canandaigua of 1794 at the Ontario County, NY Courthouse, November 11, 2022. The annual commemoration serves to “polish the chain of peace and friendship” between the sovereign Hodinöhsö:ni’ (Haudenosaunee) Nations (Six Nations Confederacy) and the federal government of the United States.

(From L to R): Brennen Ferguson (Tuscarora Chief - Turtle Clan) Sam George (Cayuga Chief - Bear Clan) Mark Powless (Cayuga) Spencer Lyons (Onondaga Chief - Eel Clan) Oren Lyons (Onondaga Faithkeeper - Turtle Clan) Roger Hill (Seneca Chief - Snipe Clan) William Jacobs (Cayuga Chief - Heron Clan) JC Seneca (Seneca Nation of Indians Councilor - Wolf Clan) Colin Martin (Mohawk Faithkeeper - Turtle Clan).

Image courtesy of Ganondagan State Historic Site. Photographer: Alex Hamer.



Chapter 3: Study Area’s Contributions to National Heritage and Potential Themes

NATIONALLY DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPE

To determine whether the study area contains nationally important themes and related assemblages of resources that helped shape the national story, the study team analyzed the historic context of the Finger Lake’s region. This analysis helped identify the study area’s role in the national story and the development of proposed NHA themes to determine if there was a *nationally distinctive landscape*, one of the first steps in determining a potential national heritage area’s feasibility. The term “landscape” encompasses the ecological and cultural context for historic and cultural sites, as well as the ecosystems and human communities surrounding those sites.

According to the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, nationally distinctive landscapes are places that contain important regional and national stories that, together with their associated natural and/or cultural resources, enable the American people to understand, preserve, and celebrate key components of the multifaceted character of the nation’s heritage. The landscapes are often places that represent and contain

identifiable assemblages of resources with integrity associated with one or more of the following:

1. important historical periods of the nation and its people
2. major events, persons, and groups that contributed substantively to the nation’s history, customs, beliefs, and folklore
3. distinctive cultures and cultural mores
4. major industries and technological, business, manufacturing innovations/practices, and labor advancements that contributed substantively to the economic growth of the nation and the well-being of its people
5. transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in important military actions, settlement, migration, and commerce
6. social movements that substantively influenced past and present-day society
7. American art, crafts, literature, and music
8. distinctive architecture and architectural periods and movements

-
9. major scientific discoveries and advancements
 10. other comparable representations that, together with their associated resources, substantively contributed to the nation's heritage

Analysis

Based on the historic overview and resource descriptions presented in this feasibility study, the study team finds that the Finger Lakes study area has the potential to support a nationally important story. That story is captured in the following significance statement:

Central New York's landscape is nationally important for its association with the distinct geological formations of the 11 Finger Lakes, resulting in the landscape serving as home to North America's politically influential participatory democracy via the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, as the breadbasket of the Northeast, and as the playground for generations of Americans and international audiences. This Finger Lakes region of 14 counties has sustained people for millennia, provided nourishment to the Northeast for hundreds of years, and attracted national attention for its scenic beauty and recreational opportunities for almost as long. Glacial movements created the Finger Lakes, the striking gorges and waterfalls at the south end of the moraine, the mineral-rich soil and microclimates that support the region's agricultural traditions, and the scenic landscape that has made the Finger Lakes a popular vacation

destination. Home of North America's earliest diplomatic confederacy, some of the country's first boom towns, and the country's first bonded winery, the Finger Lakes' bounty has molded the political, economic, and agricultural heritage of the nation.

POTENTIAL THEMES

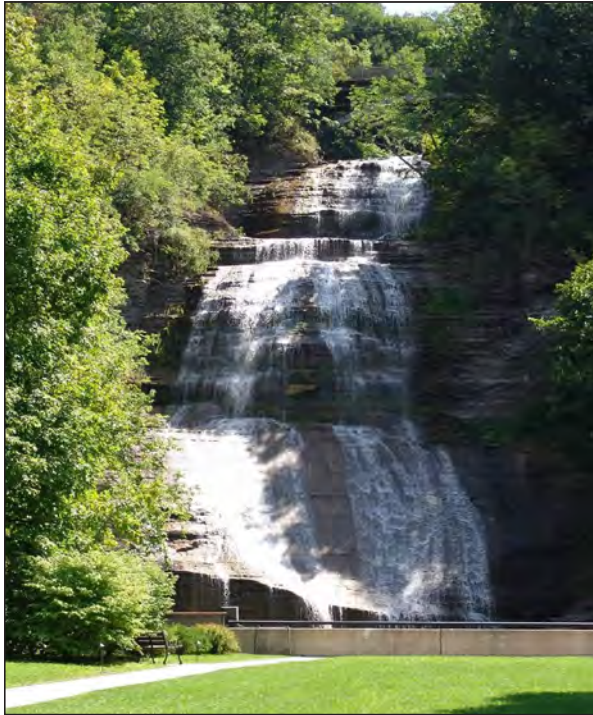
Interpretive themes are the key stories that further elaborate on the most important ideas or concepts about the significance while communicating why these stories are important today. Interpretive themes help to explain why a story is significant and relevant to people visiting a national heritage area and describe resources that support the nationally important story. By first determining the region's contributions to our national heritage, the study team may better focus its work on identifying the natural and cultural resources associated with those contributions and the themes that may best enable the public to understand, appreciate, and celebrate their importance.

Public comments, county focus group discussions, and corresponding historic research contributed to interpretive themes inspired by the landscape, existing resources, and local culture of the Finger Lakes region. The following descriptions of themes and landscape features were identified during public outreach activities and considered by the NPS team during the NHA feasibility study analysis.

Glacier-Shaped Geologic Landscape

From the time of its geological creation up to today, the Finger Lakes region of New York has been defined by water. Cornell University Professor Emeritus of Geology O. D. von

Shequagua Falls sits on the western edge of the town of Montour Falls (Schuyler County). Courtesy of Watkins Glenn Chamber of Commerce.



Engeln's seminal geological history, *The Finger Lakes Region: Its Origin and Nature*—published in 1961 as one of the earliest studies focusing on geological methodology—points out the uniqueness of the region's geological formation and current appearance, which is the result of thousands of years of glacial movement and the resulting impact and influence of water on the land.

The Finger Lakes region exemplifies the connection between physical and human geography, with glacial landforms dictating the look, feel, and shape of the land as well as the resulting culture and economics of the region. The advance and retreat of Pleistocene-era glaciers created not only the numerous freshwater lakes that give the region its name but also formed the Great Lakes that border New York State to the north; the

gorges, cliffs, and waterfalls that contribute to the central New York's scenic beauty; and the kettle lakes, bogs, and other geologic features that are recognized as national natural landmarks for their uniqueness and ecological significance.¹⁷⁸ The Finger Lakes National Forest, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, New York State and local municipal parks, and conservation organizations preserve the diverse ecosystems and wildlife habitat within the region's grasslands, shrublands, and forestlands.

The region's geography has an ongoing influence that touches every aspect of life in the Finger Lakes, such as the area's exploration and settlement by its first inhabitants thousands of years ago; its cultivation and natural food sources embraced by the Haudenosaunee and Leni-Lenape; and the bodies of water that have long provided sustenance, transportation, favorable microclimates, and places of relaxation and refuge. The area's archeological record shows the important connection between the area's earliest inhabitants and the lakes which provided freshwater and helped moderate the area's climate. The depth and water quality of the Finger Lakes create excellent conditions for freshwater and cold-water fisheries that provided an additional source of protein for the region's earliest inhabitants. In the 19th century, the same waters became the source for the Caledonia Fish Hatchery, the first in the nation.

The natural features of the area have shaped the culture of the Finger Lakes as well. The

178 NASA, "The Icy Origins of the Finger Lakes," Earth Observatory, May 16, 2013, <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/82448/the-icy-origins-of-the-finger-lakes>.

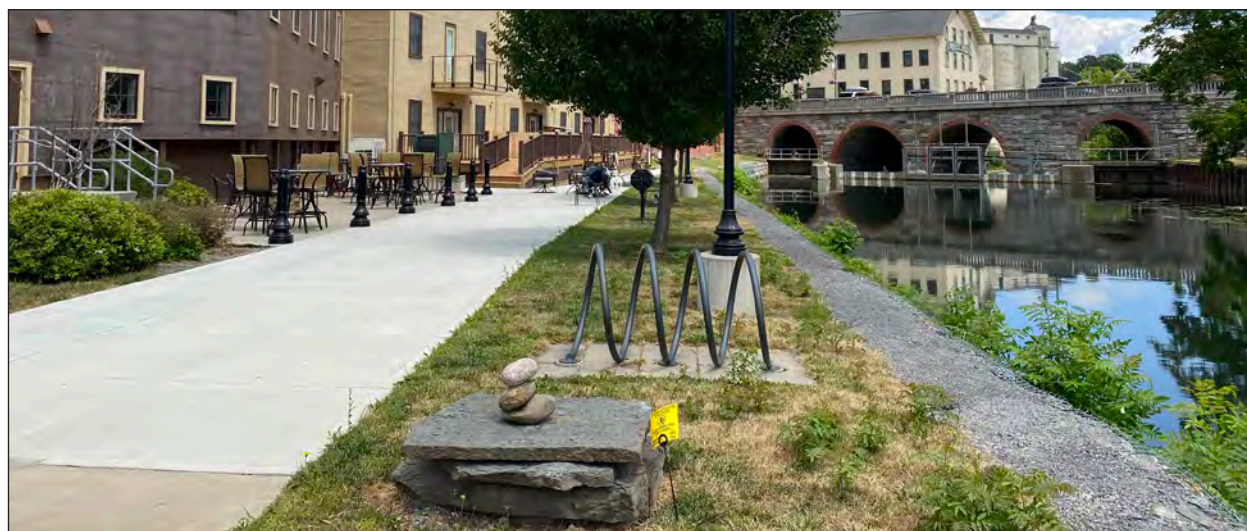
repeated movement of miles-thick glaciers across the bed of an ancient inland sea produced nutrient-rich till for agriculture, allowing counties in the study area to produce high-quality fruits and vegetables. The depth of the area's numerous lakes moderates the climate, leading to more stable temperatures and less harsh winters between the Finger Lakes, which are mitigating factors that help prolong the growing season as compared to other areas in New York State. North-flowing rivers connected the region to the Great Lakes, while south-flowing rivers provided shipping and transportation routes into the Mid-Atlantic and Chesapeake. The geology and geography of the landscape between the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario allowed for the creation of the Erie Canal, an engineering feat that revolutionized American travel, economics, and culture. Rivers and waterfalls powered the region's industrial mills and factories and contributed to the success of additional industries and entrepreneurs.

During the early 19th century, the narrow, long lakes led to a degree of isolation between

Finger Lakes communities and contributed to the geographic and cultural differences between towns and settlements. Even local building materials harken back to the area's geologic development during the Ice Age. Cobblestones deposited along Lake Ontario's southern shore when glaciers receded during the Last Ice Age and unearthed by 19th-century farmers became a common construction material across the western part of New York State, when masons who worked on the Erie Canal turned their attention towards building homes. Approximately 900 19th-century structures showcase this building style considered unique to the region.¹⁷⁹ Gray Lockport limestone—commonly called Llenroc stone after Ezra Cornell's Gothic Revival house of the same name—is also associated with the Finger Lakes region. The stone, which is part of the Lockport group geologic formation

179 National Park Service, "Cobblestone Architecture of New York State Multiple Property Listing," National Register of Historic Places, 1992.

Many Finger Lakes region communities incorporate waterways into community design and development (Keuka Lake Outlet in Penn Yan, New York).



of western New York and was used in construction of the Erie Canal, is found throughout Cornell University's campus and is still quarried locally in Ithaca.¹⁸⁰

The Finger Lakes region includes the network of waterways that were incorporated into the New York State Canal System and the rivers that made it possible for goods and produce from inland, largely agrarian New York State, to reach Canada, New York City, the Chesapeake Bay, and ports farther afield. The deep, narrow lakes that provided connections and transportation corridors far into New York State simultaneously isolated the people and small communities found on and between their shores. This balance of connections and remoteness allowed the Finger Lakes region to develop a feeling and culture unlike that of the neighboring Mohawk Valley, New York Capital region, Hudson Valley, or the Great Lakes.

Agricultural Traditions

As a result of the mineral-rich soil created by glacial movement and relatively temperate climate regulated by the deep lakes and surrounding hillsides, the Finger Lakes region provides ideal growing conditions for produce and other agricultural products. The northern portion of the area, with its sand- and gravel-rich soil created from the friction of glaciers across limestone-rich rock, has become known for its orchards and fruit harvest. The area between Canandaigua, Penn Yan, and Seneca Falls is the largest extent of exceptionally prime farmland in the Northeast. The steeper, acidic soil located towards the New York–Pennsylvania border proved less productive but became home to livestock and hardwood timber.

180 Finger Lakes Stone, "Our Company," <https://fingerlakesstone.com/company.html>.

Haudenosaunee agriculture relied on the Three Sisters—crops that were planted together and shared mutually beneficial growing processes. The corn, beans, and squash they cultivated became staples of their diet, providing a healthy balance of nutrients and versatile ingredients for traditional dishes. Extensive ecological knowledge helped the Haudenosaunee Nations produce enough crops to feed communities of hundreds of people and fill winter storehouses; this abundance allowed the nations to individually thrive and eventually build the Confederacy, one of the strongest political alliances in North America. Their agricultural influence is in the farmland still found throughout the region, as well as in programs such as the Ganondagan White Corn Project, a program using heirloom seeds to grow Iroquois white corn for Native American communities and offer it to the community at large.¹⁸¹

181 Ganondagan, "Iroquois White Corn Project," <https://ganondagan.org/whitecorn/about>.

The bounty of a Finger Lakes roadside farmstand



The earliest European American settlers were attracted to central New York because of its agricultural potential and capitalized on the fertile farmland found between the Finger Lakes and throughout the Genesee Valley. Central New York was the breadbasket of the United States during the 19th century, providing flour, grain, fruit, vegetables, and dairy products to the rest of the country via the Erie Canal. The abundance of agricultural products being harvested in New York's hinterland and processed in the water-powered mills of Rochester led to the development of America's first "boom town." By the end of the 1830s, Rochester was the largest flour-producing city in the world and earned it the nickname "the flour city." While Midwestern states began to emerge as agricultural centers by the mid-1800s, counties in the Finger Lakes study area had already gained national—and in some cases international—acclaim for their high-quality produce and products. Cornell University combined Ivy League academic rigor with the agricultural focus of a land-grant college,

creating departments and programs focused on improving the efficiency and productivity of farms. The university continued to influence New York State agriculture with its cooperative extension program and improve rural life through in-person and remote learning home economics programs (now included in the College of Human Ecology).¹⁸² Together, these research and outreach efforts boosted the agricultural productivity and success of 20th-century New York farmers.

The Finger Lakes region remains one of the most agriculturally productive sections of New York State, with generations-old orchards, dairies, and family farms throughout the study area. Currently, the region has over 7,600 farms that cover over 46% of the land area.¹⁸³ The average size of a farm in New York State is 202 acres, less than

182 Cornell University, "History," College of Human Ecology, <https://www.human.cornell.edu/about/history>.
183 Jim Ochterski, "What Do You Know About Farming?," Life in the Finger Lakes, Summer 2006, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/what-do-you-know-about-farming/>.

Vineyard



half of the national average; more than half of New York farms are smaller than 100 acres.¹⁸⁴

Syracuse was the site of the first state fair in the nation in 1842 and continues to annually host the Great New York State Fair, which features many Finger Lakes agricultural products.¹⁸⁵ The Finger Lakes Old Order Amish and Mennonite population has grown over the past 40 years, successfully bringing traditional agricultural practices and handmade goods into the 21st century. Agritourism connects visitors to modern farmers, while the area's popular farmer's markets bring local products directly to consumers, and farm-to-table cuisine allows local restaurants to share the region's bounty with diners. The region's terroir—the combination of climate, soil, and topography of a region that winemakers used to describe a wine's "sense of place" connected to its taste—is showcased in three overlapping American Vinicultural Areas encompassing more than 100 wineries and four wine trails.¹⁸⁶ Breweries using local hops and distilleries crafting liquors from local crops also have gained popularity in the last decade. These potential themes and resources are linked and represent two aspects of the area's cohesive and unique national story. This cohesive landscape is unique to the national story in the way in which it allows modern Americans to visit distinctive living traditions and lifeways just a few hours' drive away from one of the largest cities in the world.

184 DiNapoli?, "The Importance of Agriculture...", https://nycfoodpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/importance_agriculture_ny1.pdf.

185 New York State Fair, "State Fair History," <https://nysfair.ny.gov/about/fair-history/>.

186 Finger Lakes Wine Alliance, "Quick Facts and Resources," <https://www.fingerlakeswinealliance.com/quick-facts/>.

Visitors at Ithaca's East Shore Park



Multiple existing national heritage areas have deep, meaningful connections to agriculture. The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor in Massachusetts and Connecticut covers the only undeveloped region between Boston and Washington, DC, and focuses on providing opportunities to conserve farmland and forestry resources. The Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area highlights agriculture and agribusiness in Iowa. Designated in 2019, the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area tells the evolving story of the land at the junction of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, from the Indigenous population and first residents through the engineering feats that helped water turn the valley into one of the most fertile agricultural regions in the country. None of these existing national heritage areas capture the unique and distinctive agricultural conditions and traditions represented in the Finger Lakes.

Outdoor Recreation

Many regions across the country now consider outdoor recreational or heritage tourism a major economic driver, but recreation has been integral to the Finger Lakes' identity for centuries. The area was an early retreat for 19th-century Americans looking for respite from the increasingly busy urban areas of the East Coast and major cities of Syracuse and Rochester, and its tourism potential led to the creation of one of the oldest tourism associations in the country.

Lacrosse—the oldest organized sport in North America—can be traced back to the Six Nations. The Haudenosaunee teach that the game *dehonchigwiis* (lacrosse) has deep spiritual and cultural roots. The game is a gift from the Creator that should be played for his enjoyment and for the healing of the people. The Haudenosaunee National Men's Lacrosse Program—established in 1983—is the only professional sports team representing a Native nation in international competition.¹⁸⁷ The program also supports several lacrosse development programs and the Iroquois Nationals Academy, a broader social program that promotes Indigenous-led community revitalization projects.¹⁸⁸

Universities in the Finger Lakes study area have also seen recent success in the sport. Cornell University won the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's

187 Haudenosaunee Nationals, "Our History," <https://haudenosauneenationals.com/pages/our-history>.

188 In 2022, the team changed its name from the Iroquois Nationals Men's Lacrosse Team to the Haudenosaunee National Team to reflect the name members of the Six Nations collectively call themselves; Haudenosaunee Nationals, "About Us," <https://haudenosauneenationals.com/pages/about-haudenosaunee-nationals-lacrosse>.

Kayakers on Seneca Lake waterfront



lacrosse championship in 1971 and started the first ivy league women's lacrosse team after the 1972 passage of Title IX.

Syracuse University men's team has laid claim to the NCAA title 16 times, while the Syracuse Orange Women have 16 NCAA tournament appearances and have competed in 2 championship games.¹⁸⁹

The Finger Lakes region has a long history of connecting visitors to the natural wonders of the area. The scenic landscapes that drew 19th-century New Yorkers to summer in the Finger Lakes continue to attract those looking for relaxation, refreshment, and recreation. Scenic routes wind through the glacier-shaped landscape, allowing day-trippers access to the waterfalls, gorges, and lakes that define the region. The establishment of a New

189 NCAA, "Men's Lacrosse- D1 Championship History," <https://www.ncaa.com/history/lacrosse-men/d1>; NCAA, "Women's Lacrosse- D1 Championship History," <https://www.ncaa.com/history/lacrosse-women/d1>.

York State park system and its expansion through the Finger Lakes region in the early 20th century created a network of public spaces that could be enjoyed by all those looking for respite from urbanization. Green space closer to the region’s urban centers can be enjoyed in Rochester’s “emerald necklace” of parks, which was designed in the 1880s by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.¹⁹⁰

Lake life continues to draw vacationers to the Finger Lakes, with the abundance of natural water activities, local restaurants, small town businesses, and cultural attractions. Summer cottages surround the larger lakes and provide seasonal residents and visitors the space to unwind and enjoy lake life. The long traditions of boating and fishing continue with annual fishing derbies and packed local marinas. Generations of visitors have hiked in the region’s numerous state parks, sailed on clear lakes, bird watched within conservation areas, and photographed the natural beauty of the waterfalls and gorges—pastimes that have been enjoyed in the Finger Lakes for more than 100 years.

Nineteenth century health spas, grand hotels, and wellness retreats have given way to 20th-century towns that offer a mix of historic sites, rural charm, and cultural amenities, including museums, performing arts, and galleries. Restaurants pride themselves on serving regional dishes created using locally sourced produce, dairy products, and meat—the same high-quality products available at farmers’ markets, U-pick orchards, and farm stands throughout the area. New recreational opportunities introduced in the 20th century include road racing at Watkins Glen,

soaring at Harris Hill, flying seaplanes that benefitted from Glenn Curtiss’s aeronautical innovations, and enjoying the area’s wine tours and scenic byways—activities that are rooted in the Finger Lakes and linked to its historic industries.

As a program, national heritage areas celebrate and showcase the resources, opportunities, and organizations that embrace and promote the importance of distinct, cohesive landscapes. The Finger Lakes and surrounding waterfalls, gorges, rivers, and farmland have earned a reputation as an outdoor recreational playground due to the variety of ways visitors and locals experience the outdoors and scenic features. Individually named and landscape-wide recreational resources and scenic resources suggested during public outreach and analyzed by the study team are directly connected to the study area’s distinct geology, glacier-shaped landscape, and bodies of water described above.

Central New York’s lakes have become tourist destinations for those wanting to escape the eastern seaboard’s metropolises, take in the pastoral scenery and outdoor tours, or simply enjoy the slower pace that lake life allows. Summer ushers in the local festival season, and race fans flock to Watkins Glen Speedway. Winter provides opportunities for solitude, sipping wine at the region’s many wineries, and taking advantage of ice fishing tournaments, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing at New York state parks. Scenic byways allow visitors to take in the year-round natural wonders of the areas and connect picturesque small towns and villages

190 Highland Park Conservancy, "Rochester's Park System," <https://www.highlandparkconservancy.org/rochesters-parks-system>.

Historic Connections and Transportation

Situated between the New York State Capital Region and the western reaches of the state, the Finger Lakes study area occupies much of central New York and has acted as an integral transportation corridor for centuries, reaching from Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario and connecting the major cities of the East with the Great Lakes and the rest of the nation. Members of the Haudenosaunee navigated the region’s glacial landscape to form and strengthen bonds between the Six Nations. European and American colonists arriving in the 18th century pushed deep into the region using established Indigenous peoples’ trade routes and portages to create settlements and farms. After the Revolutionary War, the region was further connected by plank roads, ferries, and bridges, as the newly established New York State and private entities attempted to reach the rich agricultural land and plentiful forests between the Finger Lakes.

Harriet Tubman House, Auburn, New York



Canals were created to connect the seemingly isolated Finger Lakes to the Great Lakes, Susquehanna River, and Genesee River, allowing people, ideas, and goods from major East Coast cities and the world to flow freely through the region on barges, ferries, and steamboats. This free flow of people resulted in widespread growth and development within the Finger Lakes, as canal builders settled in adjacent towns and businesses developed to meet their needs and further profit off goods shipped via the canals. The study area’s history is entwined with the opening of the Erie Canal, which connected the Hudson River Valley to the Great Lakes and played an important role in the network of canals that developed over time in central New York State.

Regional rail lines, overland routes, and lake ferries and barges found throughout many waterways within the study area supported the movement of goods and people deeper into the Finger Lakes region. Railroads cut down travel time to allow for more recreational travel and the shipment of perishable or other time-sensitive goods and made even more social and economic connections possible.

Central New York continues to rely on transportation resources in the Finger Lakes. Highways follow the same overland routes developed by the Haudenosaunee and later used to connect canal communities. Finger Lakes companies built quality boats that helped early 20th-century residents recreate and travel throughout the region. Syracuse companies manufactured cars that helped usher in the age of the automobile. Franklin Automotive Company—which produced the first air-cooled engine—and the Century Motor Vehicle Company of the early 20th century made way for General Motors and

Chrysler operations that came to Syracuse after World War II. Glenn Curtiss's airplane designs jumpstarted the era of motorized flight and supported the Army and Navy through both World Wars. Curtiss was also a leading maker of high-performance motorcycles and, after selling the company in the 1930s and retiring to Florida, created the Aerocar, a prototype of modern recreational vehicle trailers.¹⁹¹

Social Ideals Translated into National Movements

For centuries, revolutionary social ideas that have become recognized as American ideals were fostered in the Finger Lakes region. The area's history of reform and equality predates the United States, with the Haudenosaunee directly influencing the development of the United States' democratic political system.

191 Glenn H. Curtiss Museum, "Who Was Glenn Curtiss?," <https://glennhcurtissmuseum.org/education/who-was-glenn-curtiss/>.

Corn is one of the "Three Sisters" planting traditions employed for centuries by the Haudenosaunee peoples.



The Haudenosaunee Confederacy is the oldest living participatory democracy on earth. Within the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, member nations maintain their independence while working together to uphold the Great Law of Peace; the Iroquois Constitution establishes the balance of power between the central confederacy and individual nations and outlines the two-branch legislative system that may pass laws. Onondaga leader Cassatego gave a 1744 speech urging the English colonies to unite and consider the strength of a confederacy that was later published by Benjamin Franklin for distribution. The central tenets of the Six Nations Confederacy, conveyed through the image of a bundle of arrows symbolizing the unity of Haudenosaunee nations, inspired the Continental Congress and the Constitution of the United States. The Great Seal of the United States, an eagle holding an olive branch in one talon and 13 arrows in the other, illustrates this Haudenosaunee principle.¹⁹²

The development and spread of social movements and national reform were closely tied to the 1825 opening of the Erie Canal and subsequent expansion of the New York State Canal System. During the 19th century, Finger Lakes residents and communities helped popularize and spread information about the abolitionist movement, temperance, women's suffrage, and religious revivalism across the country. Central New York and the Finger Lakes region became a "crucible of freedom" that forged together the strong religious convictions associated with the Second Great Awakening and Quakerism. Spiritualism and Mormonism, two uniquely American religious movements connected to central New York,

192 Allison Barlow, "Reawaken Our Indigenous Roots," Johns Hopkins University - The Democracy Project, October 23, 2020, <https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/10/23/democracy-project-allison-barlow/>.

illustrated that common people can have experiences with the spiritual realm outside of centuries-old religious systems. The influx of diverse people and ideas transported by the Erie Canal, the “untamed” atmosphere of America’s frontier in the early 19th century, and the emerging social leaders devoted to their causes connected economic and political influencers. Antislavery advocates who moved to the Finger Lakes from Quaker strongholds in Pennsylvania and the progressive social circles in urban areas helped self-emancipating African Americans travel across the region on their journeys north. Free African Americans built successful businesses and created communities in Syracuse and Rochester in the decades leading up to the Civil War.

Social reformers often campaigned and supported numerous causes as temperance crusaders, and abolitionists used their existing networks and resources to focus on women’s rights later in the 19th century. The Haudenosaunee’s matriarchal system in which clan mothers are respected as political and social leaders, as well as the source of familial bonds, influenced and inspired 19th-century women’s rights advocates as they pushed for gender equality and the right to vote. Early women’s rights conventions in Seneca Falls, Rochester, and Syracuse, along with works authored by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Jocelyn Gage, created the foundation and documented the history of the early women’s movement in America.

These movements continued their momentum into the 20th century, with social reformers in the Finger Lakes pushing for civil rights and equal access to education, health care, and jobs on local and national stages. National women’s suffrage groups with New

Yates County History Center, Underwood Museum



York roots successfully lobbied for passage of the 19th Amendment and continued to push for equality between the sexes. Groups that formed after the 1964 Rochester riots became one of the models for federal agencies and neighborhood organizations created in the wake of the Civil Rights Act. The 1983 Seneca Women’s Encampment caught national attention and acted as a training ground for methods of nonviolent protest and civil disobedience that guided environmental activism and antinuclear protests throughout the 1980s.

Some of the Finger Lakes resources that support this potential theme—including all of the historic sites in the village of Seneca Falls and the cities of Syracuse and Rochester—are already included in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, but the study area includes a broader array of sites associated with social movements. Resources connected to the theme of social innovation and reform include properties associated with Harriet Tubman and William Seward in Auburn

(Cayuga County), Ganondagon (Ontario County), and other sites associated with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and 19th-century religious movements. Some of these resources are recognized as part of broader national and/or state networks of historic sites like the NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites managed by the Alice Paul Institute, the Center of Inquiry’s Freethought Interpretive Trail through western New York, and New York State’s Women’s History and Underground Railroad Heritage Trails.

Innovation and Lasting Legacies

Great inventors, business leaders, and innovators have all called the Finger Lakes region home, and their lasting legacies and thriving companies influence the culture and continuing national contributions of the study area.

Agricultural innovations support the Finger Lake’s national story of a variety of farming practices and traditions. Methods and inventions that took advantage of the region’s unique landscape and helped to increase the productivity and quality of the Finger Lakes’ agricultural products helped preserve and renew the area’s farmlands, orchards, and vineyards. Long before European contact, Haudenosaunee peoples used mutually beneficial planting strategies, such as the “Three Sisters” (squash, corn, and beans), embodying agricultural practicality and spiritual meaning.¹⁹³ European arrivals developed the cast-iron plow design patented by Jethro Wood and woven wire products produced by the Wirewick Brothers. Scientific research at Cornell University

193 Ganondagan, “Legend of the Three Sisters,” <https://ganondagan.org/learn/legend-of-the-three-sisters>.

The early 20th-century Cortland Corset Building is planned for a 21st-century adaptive reuse as modern residential and commercial space. Courtesy of the Finger Lake Tourism Alliance.



increased agricultural productivity and helped combat against pests and plant diseases; these breakthroughs and other information were widely shared through county-level agricultural extension offices that brought science into rural areas. The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station focused on varieties that would thrive in the state and continues to do research to benefit New York State’s farmers dealing with poor soils, pests, and other challenges. The Finger Lakes wine industry survived a turbulent 20th century of prohibition, changing tastes, and crop diseases to rebound through the use of root grafting techniques developed by Dr. Konstantin Frank and legislative help provided by the New York State Winery Act.

Social movements introduced innovations and created legacies as well. Amelia Bloomer did not create “bloomers”—the short pants suggested as an alternative to restrictive

dresses—but was an early advocate for dress reform and lent her name to the garment. Farm-to-table eating and vegetarian cuisine was not new when the *Moosewood Cookbook* was published in the 1977, but the Ithaca-based Moosewood Kitchen popularized meat-free cooking and created generations of home cooks interested in eating food that was healthy and environmentally sourced.¹⁹⁴

Companies and individuals mentioned in the historic context section above and highlighted in many public comments are associated with the founding, development, growth, and success of communities throughout the region, from Syracuse and Rochester to the smaller cities of Auburn, Ithaca, Corning, and others. The prosperity and cosmopolitan influences that traveled along the Erie Canal followed the Cayuga-Seneca Canal into the heart of the Finger Lakes. This connection allowed businesses to grow profits and experiment with new techniques, technology, and approaches towards production. The flow of potential workers and capital into the region made economic growth possible and led to the emergence of Syracuse and Rochester as early 19th-century “boom towns” that evolved into 20th-century centers for technology, healthcare, and education.

Rochester, Syracuse, and smaller communities throughout central New York have created industries that shaped the world and moved the United States forward. Companies with ties to the Finger Lakes region have earned acclaim for innovative techniques and national attention for their products. Rochester’s Kodak Company and Auburn’s

Case Research Laboratory helped usher in the era of sound in motion picture that made commercially viable talking movies possible. Glenn Curtiss produced the first private airplane and designed the first pontoon craft, making the growth of general aviation and widespread civilian and military use of seaplanes possible. The glass and ceramics corridor developed as a result of the accomplishments of Corning Glass and the company’s legacy of industrial and scientific advancements.

Many Finger Lakes industrialists and business owners invested in their communities by providing support for charitable causes and the arts; establishing universities, museums, state parks, and historic sites; and creating endowments, grant funding, and event sponsorships that are still the cornerstones of civic life in many towns throughout the region. William Smith, a part owner of one of Geneva’s successful nurseries, funded the establishment of the Smith Opera House and founded the William Smith College for Women. Ezra Cornell endowed the Cornell Free Library—the first public library in Ithaca—and Cornell University. William Pryor Letchworth, a Buffalo, New York, industrialist, bequeathed his 1,000-acre Glen Iris estate to New York; that land in Livingston and Wyoming Counties became the core of Letchworth State Park. Matthias Arnot, president of the Chemung Canal Bank, bequeathed his art collection to create the Arnot Art Museum in Elmira. Arnot’s will also included support for social welfare organizations and religious groups across Elmira.

Philanthropists supported the creation and growth of the area’s numerous museums, performing arts venues, and academic and historical institutions. Mary Clark

194 Laura B. Weiss, "The 'Moosewood Cookbook' Turns 40," *Publishers Weekly*, November 14, 2014, <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/cooking/article/64746-the-moosewood-cookbook-turns-40.html>

Aurora Free Library and Morgan Opera House



Thompson—the wife of banker Frederick Ferris Thompson—established the F. F. Thompson Hospital, funded construction of the Woodlawn Cemetery chapel, donated land and money for the City of Canandaigua’s post office, and supported the Ontario County Historical Society. The Thompson’s generosity and support of Canandaigua didn’t end with Mary Clark Thompson’s death in 1923; in 2004, the Canandaigua summer home, Sonnenberg Mansion¹⁹⁵ and Gardens, was acquired by the State of New York and designated a state historical park. Margaret Woodbury Strong, the only child of wealthy early 20-century collectors, amassed a personal collection of dolls, toys, and household objects that the public could view at the “Museum of Fascination” she created in her 30-room suburban Rochester

195 Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park, "Historical Perspective on Sonneberg," <https://www.sonnenberg.org/about-us/historical-perspective-on-sonnenberg/>.

home. Strong bequeathed her collection and financial resources to the museum, which officially opened as the Strong Museum of Play in 1982.¹⁹⁶ The museum, now called The Strong, has grown to include the International Center for the History of Electronic Games, the national Toy Hall of Fame, the World Video Game Hall of Fame, and the *American Journal of Play*. Today’s visitors to the major cities of Syracuse and Rochester, as well as the college towns of Ithaca and Aurora and smaller communities of Geneva, Auburn, Canandaigua, can still see the lasting influence of these philanthropists when enjoying the symphony and opera performances, plays, and educational programs and the world-class facilities that house them.

Analysis

Potential interpretive themes that illuminate the study area’s significance include:

- **Glacier-Shaped Geologic Landscape.** The Finger Lakes region provides a unique opportunity to see the result of thousands of years of glacial and interglacial movement. Glacial features, including drumlins, eskers, kettles, moraine, gorges, waterfalls, and the lakes that give the region its name, are the visible evidence of geologic time and forces at work.
- **Agricultural Traditions.** The productive agricultural landscape that surrounds the Finger Lakes is the result of traditional practices and scientific innovations. While the area’s rural appearance may remind visitors of America’s past, academic research,

196 The Strong National Museum of Play, "Margaret Woodbury Strong," <https://www.museumofplay.org/about/margaret-woodbury-strong/>.

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- inventions, and novel approaches ensure that small-scale farms and production can continue to produce the highest-quality goods and products into the future.
 - **Outdoor Recreation and Leisure.** Home to one of the first tourism organizations in the nation, the Finger Lakes has long been a destination for those looking to escape urban life and unwind, while taking in natural beauty and idyllic agricultural scenes. From early motoring routes connecting state parks and geologic wonders to today's festivals, racing events, water-based recreation, agricultural food tours/routes, and farmers markets, the Finger Lakes has provided opportunities to marvel at the scenery and enjoy the outdoors for over a century.
 - **Historic Connections and Transportation.** Prior to European settlement, Indigenous peoples established a network of trade routes and portages that became the foundation for later transportation routes. Building on that foundation, early 19th century transportation innovations rapidly and dramatically changed the political, physical and cultural landscapes from the Atlantic Coast to the Ohio Valley. The history and resources in the Finger Lakes illustrate the far-reaching impacts of the Erie Canal. The region, which was once considered a remote, inland part of New York State, experienced the influx of people, goods, and ideas that accompanied the creation of the New York State Canal System. The transportation network expanded via the subsequent development of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, ferry and steamship

routes, rail lines, and state routes and interstate highways, all of which can trace their genesis to the paths forged by the Haudenosaunee.

- **Social Ideals Translated into National Movements.** Individuals and movements that shaped the nation trace their paths back to the Finger Lakes, a region where new ideas have gained support and flourished before taking the country by storm.
- **Innovation and Lasting Legacies.** The Finger Lakes has been the headquarters of companies that have changed the economic landscape and community members who have built legacies in the form of innovative household products, technological advances, cutting-edge research, and philanthropic endeavors that continue to enrich the lives of locals and visitors alike.

Conclusion

The Finger Lakes study area in central New York appears to be a nationally distinctive landscape, as defined by the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019), due to its notable physical landscape and the assemblage of resources that directly support or illustrate this importance. The glacial lakes, resulting microclimates, and mineral-rich soil contribute to the wealth of natural resources and agricultural productivity that has become synonymous with the region, while the rolling hills covered with farms and agricultural fields and vineyards, villages, lakes, waterfalls, and gorges create the region's scenic beauty. Working farms, outdoor recreation, and wineries connect the region's historic practices with today's economic opportunities.

Together, the significance statement and potential interpretive themes presented in this study convey the importance of, and additional context related to, the Finger Lakes' nationally distinctive landscape and could provide the thematic framework to support a national heritage area. As stated in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019):

Themes developed during the NHA feasibility study may not be fully carried into a future heritage area management plan completed by a local management entity. The purpose of theme development for the study is to determine that a viable theme structure exists in the study area. Careful consideration of themes and a public process for developing them during the study will assist local interests in later theme related planning if NHA designation results.

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Chapter 4

Study Area Resource Analysis



Photo, Front

Many Finger Lakes region organizations focus on natural resource protection to support healthy lakes and recreation including swimming, boating, and sunbathing at the lakes.

Photo, Back

Locally owned market highlighting Finger Lakes fruits, vegetables, pies, and beef, as well as artistic traditions near Ithaca, New York.





Chapter 4: Study Area Resource Analysis

INTRODUCTION

This analysis is a preliminary step before the study team analyzes the 10 NHA criteria for evaluation. The determination of national importance includes an analysis of study area resources to determine whether there exists a strategic assemblage of related resources capable of supporting the interpretation of an area's contributions to the nation's heritage.

For the purpose of this analysis, the term, “strategic assemblage of resources” is defined as a concentration of resources that together support the nationally distinctive landscape. To comprise a strategic assemblage, these resources must be directly associated with the significance statement and themes to enable an authentic experience of the national story. The resources must also be fully documented to confirm the resource's significance and integrity. To be an assemblage, such resources must also be geographically close to one another to (1) form a cohesive landscape, (2) be efficiently and comprehensively managed by one coordinating entity, and (3) enable interpretation of the area of significance. If the individual resources are too widely dispersed to form a cohesive whole or if the

resources are too few in number, any of these important aspects of a national heritage area could be diminished.

To determine whether there exists a strategic assemblage of resources that represent the nationally important story and its significance statement and interpretive themes, the study team conducted an extensive analysis of various qualities of the study area's numerous resources. The NPS study team evaluated each resource identified through research, public outreach, and subject matter experts' suggestions to determine whether this study area has a strategic assemblage of resources that meet these criteria. (See appendix B for a partial list of study area resources evaluated for the feasibility study and the related themes.) Figures 2 and 3 indicate the general locations of many of these resources, by theme, throughout the study area.

Methodology

The determination of a nationally distinctive landscape depends on the evaluation of resources within the study area. Analyzing the type and number of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources can help the NPS study

team consider how resources may support a nationally distinctive landscape, illustrate the proposed themes, and determine if extant resources have a degree of integrity to support interpretation as part of a potential national heritage area.

The process of analyzing the resources involved preparing a list of historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources within the study area. The study area resources described in this chapter and listed in appendix B were compiled to examine the types of resources present in the Finger Lakes and determine whether they would support the criteria outlined in Public Law 111-11 and established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* (2019). **This resource list is not intended to be comprehensive.** The resources are provided to highlight the type of resources found in the area and serve as a starting point for the study team’s analysis of potential nationally important stories and themes that could support a Finger Lakes national heritage area. Private sites, such as legacy farms, family-owned restaurants, and historic structures, may also contribute to the landscape and heritage of the study area but were not the primary focus of the resource list or this NHA feasibility study.

Additional natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources that exist within the study area may contribute to a potential heritage area or support the nationally important story and associated themes described in this NHA feasibility study. Those resources could be supported and interpreted within the potential future heritage area, even if they are not listed within the partial inventory created to support this feasibility study.

SELECT NATURAL RESOURCES

The Finger Lakes region was named after the 11 long, north-south-oriented lakes found in northern New York, which resemble human fingers on a pair of outstretched hands. The region is considered a “bioregion” (a region defined by characteristics of the natural environment—smaller than an ecozone, but larger than an ecosystem). The southern ends of the lakes have high walls, cut by steep gorges. Two of the lakes (Seneca and Cayuga) are the longest and among the deepest in North America; their bottoms are at depths below sea level.

Water Resources

Finger Lakes. The 11 glacial lakes that give the region its name are described below.¹⁹⁷

- **Conesus (Seneca meaning—“Always Beautiful”).** Conesus Lake is the westernmost Finger Lake and is located 25 miles south of Rochester, New York. Consensus Lake is considered a “minor” lake because of its size—8 miles long, 1 mile wide, with a maximum depth of 66 feet. Conesus Lake is considered a quieter destination in the region, with mostly residential development along its north shore. The lake supplies water

197 Much of the information in this section comes from a three-part series of articles produced by Life in the Finger Lakes magazine in 2019:

Kyra Bean, "The Story Behind Each of the Finger Lakes," Life in the Finger Lakes.

"Part 1: Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice, and Honeoye," Jul/Aug 2019, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/the-story-behind-each-of-the-eleven-finger-lakes-part-1/>; "Part 2: Canadaigua, Keuka, Seneca, and Cayuga," Sep/Oct 2019, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/the-story-behind-each-of-the-eleven-finger-lakes-part-2/>; "Part 3: Owasco, Skaneateles, and Otisco Lakes," Nov/Dec 2019, <https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/the-story-behind-each-of-the-eleven-finger-lakes-part-3/>.

to the approximately 15,000 residents of Avon (to the north) and Geneseo (to the west).¹⁹⁸

- **Hemlock.** Hemlock Lake is 7 miles long, 0.5 miles wide, and reaches a maximum depth of 91 feet. Its 29 billion gallons of water act as a reservoir for the City of Rochester, so shoreline development is restricted and swimming prohibited; however, fishing from nonmotorized craft is allowed.¹⁹⁹ The lake's south shore is rimmed by old-growth forests. Hemlock is the only Finger Lake that does not have a name inspired by Haudenosaunee language.
- **Canadice (Haudenosaunee [Iroquois] meaning—"Long Lake").** Canadice Lake is the highest and smallest of the Finger Lakes, measuring 3 miles long, 0.3 miles wide, with a maximum depth of 95 feet. Canadice Lake has been used as public drinking water for Rochester since 1876, so its shores are free from development and swimming is not allowed. The lake's elevation of 1,069 feet allows natural water pressure to build and transport water to Rochester without the use of pumps.
- **Honeoye (Seneca meaning—"Lying Finger" or "Where the Finger Lies").** Honeoye is the second smallest Finger Lake at 5 miles long and 0.8 miles wide. It only reaches 30 feet maximum depth and has an average depth of 16 feet, making it the shallowest lake in the chain. The shallow depth creates a rich fishing environment, provides warm waters

for summer activities, and allows the lake to completely freeze over for ice-skating and ice fishing in the winter. Lake cottages line the shoreline, and the Village of Honeoye sits at the north end of the lake.

- **Canandaigua (Seneca meaning—"The Chosen Spot").** Canandaigua Lake is 16 miles long, 1 mile wide, and has a maximum depth of 276 feet, making it the 4th largest Finger Lake. The lake encompasses Skenoh Island, one of only two islands within the Finger Lakes and the smallest New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Area.²⁰⁰ During the 19th century, paddle and steamboat traffic served amusement parks and resorts along its shores. The lake continues to be a popular recreation spot, with cottages running north near the town of Canandaigua and south to the town of Naples.
- **Keuka (Haudenosaunee meaning—"Canoe Landing;" Seneca meaning—"Lake with An Elbow").** Keuka Lake is known for its "crooked" shape, similar to Italy's Lake Como. The lake is 22 miles long, between 0.5 and 2 miles wide, and reaches a maximum depth of 187 feet. It is one of the only lakes in the country that flows both north and south. Keuka Lake is connected to the canal system that fed into the Erie Canal and supported shipping during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Its lakefront is mostly residential, and its relatively shallow waters make it ideal for swimming and boating. Penn Yan is located at its northern tip while

198 Conesus Lake Association, "Conesus Lake-The Facts," May 9, 2011, <https://conesuslake.org/lake-information/lake-facts>.

199 City of Rochester, "Hemlock Lake," <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936601>.

200 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, "Skenoh Island Wildlife Management Area," <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/101178.html>.

Hammondsport—the birthplace of wine in the Finger Lakes—is on its south shore.²⁰¹

- **Seneca (Haudenosaunee meaning—“A Place of Stone”).** Seneca Lake is the largest Finger Lake by volume, holding 4.2 trillion gallons of fresh water; this accounts for approximately half of all the water in the region. It is 35 miles long, 3 miles wide, and reaches a maximum depth of 630 feet—200 feet below sea level—making it the deepest Finger Lake. The lake’s large size and

201 Keuka Lake Association, "Keuka Lake Story," <https://www.keukalakeassociation.org/keuka-lake-story.php>.

volume moderates the climate along its shores and creates ideal conditions for agriculture. Its depth attracted the US Navy and Air Force to the area during World War II for submarine training. The community of Watkins Glen and the New York state park that shares its name is on the lake’s southern tip, and the town of Geneva sits on its northern shore.

- **Cayuga (named after Cayuga people—“People of the Great Swamp”).** Cayuga Lake is the longest Finger Lake, at just under 40 miles in length. The lake varies from 1.7 miles to 3.5 miles wide and has a maximum depth of 435 feet. The

Seneca Lake waterfront in Geneva, New York



northern tip of the lake is home to a large marshland included in Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Seneca Falls and Waterloo—two communities associated with leaders of the Women’s Rights Movement in America—are located east of the lake on modern-day Highway 20. The towns of Cayuga and Aurora lie on the lake’s eastern shore. Ithaca—home to several colleges and universities—is located at Cayuga Lake’s southern terminus.

- **Owasco (Haudenosaunee for “The Crossing Point” or “Floating Bridge”).** Measuring 11 miles long, 1 mile wide, Owasco Lake is the sixth largest Finger Lake. It reaches a maximum depth of 177 feet but averages less than 100 feet deep. Wasco—one of the earliest Cayuga settlements—is located at the north end of the lake. During the late 19th century, the Syracuse Railway ran down the west side of the lake to connect the wealthy social elites of the city to resorts and casinos. North of Owasco Lake is the city of Auburn, and the town of Moravia is at the south end of the lake.²⁰²
- **Skaneateles (Haudenosaunee for “Long Water”).** Skaneateles Lake is 16 miles long, 1 mile wide, and has a maximum depth of 300 feet. Early European American settlers were drawn to the lake as a source of power for watermills and other industrial mills. The lake is considered one of the cleanest lakes in the United States and has been used as a source of drinking water for the town of Skaneateles and Syracuse since the 1890s.

- **Otisco (Haudenosaunee [Iroquois] meaning—“Waters Dried Away”/ Onondaga for “The Water Is Low”).** The easternmost Finger Lake, Otisco Lake is 6 miles long, 1 mile wide, and reaches a maximum depth of 68 feet. The lake was first dammed in 1869 to raise water levels and provide additional storage water for the Erie Canal. It was then dammed again in 1908 to serve as a source of public drinking water for Syracuse and Onondaga Counties.²⁰³ The lake is lined with year-round residences, seasonal cottages, and farms. Its shallow depth and warmer temperatures—as well as its location near Syracuse—make it popular for summer recreation and fishing.

Other Water Resources. In addition to the Finger Lakes, the 14-county study area has major tributaries of the Chesapeake and Great Lakes watersheds and freshwater lakes that are not considered part of the Finger Lakes chain. These other water resources include:

- **Lake Ontario.** The easternmost and smallest Great Lake, Lake Ontario borders the northernmost counties in the Finger Lakes study area: Monroe County, Wayne County, and Cayuga County. While over a quarter of Canada’s population lives along the northern shore of Lake Ontario, the southern lakeshore in New York is largely rural. The Great Lakes Waterway connects Lake Ontario to the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence Seaway, and the Oswego Canal connects the lake to the New York State Canal System. The lake’s thermal conditions and climate created by cold,

202 Kyra Bean, "Owasco Lake, The Crossing Place," Life in the Finger Lakes, April 11, 2019, https://www.lifeinthefingerlakes.com/part_9_owasco_lake_the_crossing_place/

203 Finger Lakes Museum, "Otisco Lake," <https://www.fingerlakesmuseum.org/otisco-lake/>

northerly winds results in considerable lake effect snow along the southern lakeshore and delays early spring blooms enough to avoid spring frosts and freezes. This delay creates a microclimate that allows tender fruit production along the lake's southwest shore. Commercial orchards surrounding Rochester and on the Niagara Peninsula, west of the Finger Lakes study area, grow apples, cherries, pears, plums, and peaches.

- **Oneida Lake.** Located northeast of Syracuse, Oneida Lake is bordered by Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, and Oneida Counties and touches the northeast corner of the study area. The lake is sometimes referred to as the “thumb” of the Finger Lakes due to its proximity to the chain, although it is the remnant of a separate prehistoric lake created when glaciers blocked the flow of the St. Lawrence River. Oneida Lake feeds into the Oneida River, which ultimately leads to Lake Ontario. It is the largest lake to sit entirely within New York State, with a surface area of approximately 80 square miles. Since it averages only 22 feet in depth, Oneida Lake is much shallower than the nearby Finger Lakes and offers visitors warmer summer water temperatures for recreation. During the winter, the lake solidly freezes and allows ice fishing and snowmobiling.
- **Onondaga Lake.** Onondaga Lake sits within Syracuse (Onondaga County) and is considered to be the birthplace of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and an important part of the Onondaga Nation's homeland. Development around the lake increased during the late 19th century, with industrial and urban development appearing on the southern

end and resorts appearing along the northern end. Twentieth-century population growth led to major pollution and contaminant issues, but recent remediation efforts over the last 20-plus years have improved water quality and health of related species.²⁰⁴

- **Cross Lake.** Cross Lake sits on the border of Cayuga and Onondaga Counties and is created by a widening of the Seneca River as it flows west to east through the southern portion of the lake. Cross Lake is part of the New York State Canal System and is annually stocked with walleye and tiger muskies. It has become known for producing large northern pike, surgeon, walleye, and perch.
- **Seneca River.** The Seneca River starts at Seneca Lake and flows approximately 61 miles north and east to combine with the Oneida and Oswego Rivers, ultimately flowing into Lake Ontario. The river connects Seneca and Cayuga Lakes before being channelized and becoming part of the Erie Canal system. The free-flowing river is popular for unmotorized watercraft and fishing tournaments.

Members of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. The NPS Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) is a listing of more than 3,200 free-flowing river segments that are believed to possess regionally significant natural or cultural values. These segments are considered potential candidates for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system.

204 Karen Williamson and Don Hesler, "Return to Glory: The resurgence of Onondaga Lake," *New York State Conservationist*, August 2006, https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/olreturntoglory.pdf.

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- **Canisteo River.** Thirty-nine miles of the Canisteo River—a tributary of the Tioga River that flows through Steuben County—was added to the Nationwide Rivers Inventory in 1995. The river’s class I whitewater and fishing contribute to its outstanding recreational value.
 - **Chemung River.** The Chemung River starts at the confluence of the Cohocton and Tioga Rivers in Corning and flows approximately 46 miles through Steuben and Chemung Counties before joining the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. The Chemung River Valley was a major trade and transportation route through the western Allegheny plateau for the Haudenosaunee people and later European settlers. With the completion of the Chemung Canal in 1833, the river was connected to the southern end of Seneca Lake and provided a new route for Pennsylvanian and western New York goods into the Finger Lakes region and the rest of the Erie Canal system. In 1982, 7 miles of the Chemung River corridor was added to the Nationwide Rivers Inventory due to its outstanding geologic value.
 - **Clyde River.** Added to the inventory in 1982, a 10-mile segment of the Clyde River in Wayne County is considered to have outstanding historical value as a portion of the Erie Canal.
 - **Cohocton River.** The 46-mile-long Cohocton River runs from Atlanta (Steuben County) to the mouth at the Tioga River and is recognized for its class I whitewater and year-round, self-sustaining brown and brook trout populations. The river was listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory in 1995.
 - **Genesee River.** The Genesee River flows north from the New York–Pennsylvania border through Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, and Steuben Counties into Lake Ontario. The river traditionally marked the western edge of the homelands of the Seneca Nation, a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The river’s gorge—called the “Grand Canyon of the East”—was also used as a clearly demarcated border between the Finger Lakes region and “Genesee County” in western New York during early American settlement. The Genesee River’s hydropower helped fuel Rochester’s rise as a major city during the early 19th century and is still used to provide hydroelectric power for the city. The river was added to the Nationwide Rivers Inventory in 1995 for its outstanding geologic, recreational, and scenic value and is also designated a “scenic river” under the New York State Rivers Program.
 - **Susquehanna River.** The Susquehanna River is one of the longest on the East Coast and the second-largest river basin in the country (27,500 square miles), after the Ohio River Basin. The 444-mile-long river snakes from Cooperstown, New York, through Pennsylvania and Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay. This river is a regional corridor connecting the southeastern counties in the study area to the rest of the Mid-Atlantic. The Susquehanna flows through Cortland and Tioga Counties, small portions of Tompkins, Schuyler, and eastern Chemung Counties, and other New York counties associated with the Southern Tier. In 1982, a 14-mile segment of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania was listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory as one of the largest free-flowing, relatively undeveloped high-order rivers in the Northeast.

Protected Natural Areas
Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior

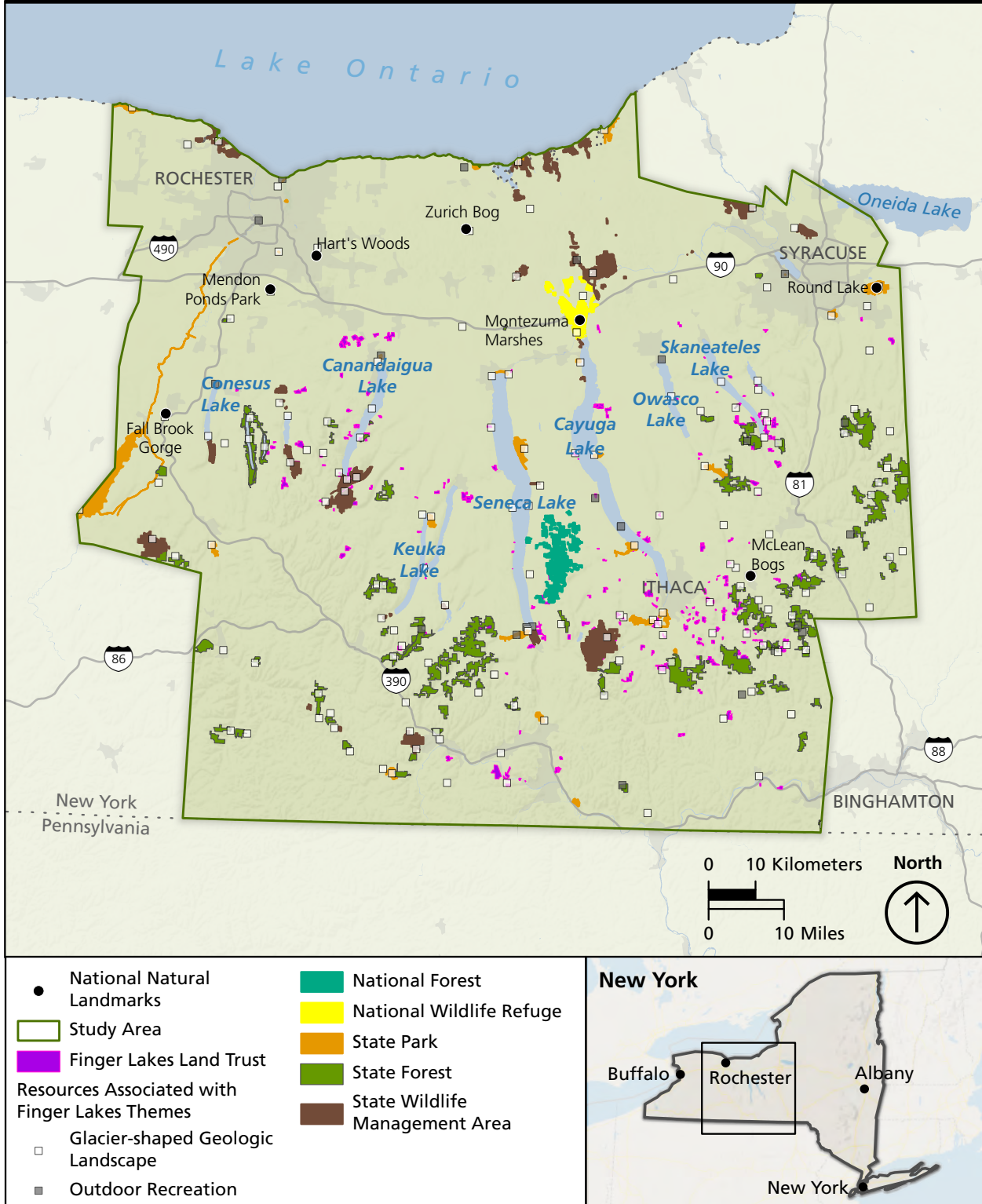


Figure 2. Protected natural areas of the study area and a sample of sites contributing to themes of a potential national heritage area (see appendix B).

Habitat and Wildlife

The Finger Lakes region is home to an extensive array of wildlife and vegetation. The area provides habitat for numerous mammal species, including black bear, white-tailed deer, river otter, fox, and beaver. Bald eagles are commonly seen in addition to great blue herons and Sandhill cranes. Over 100 state-protected bird species are known to occur in the study area and there are numerous bird, amphibian, fish, mussel, and plant species that are listed as endangered or threatened by New York State. In addition, the region provides habitat for 27 migratory bird species.

The study area is home to eight endangered species, including two bat species, a turtle, flowering plants, and a fern. The federally protected species are listed below:

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalist*)
- Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*)
- Eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*)
- Chittenango ovate amber snail (*Succinea chittenangoensis*)
- Leedy's roseroot (*Rhodiola integrifolia* ssp. *Leedyi*)
- Northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*)
- American hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium* var. *americanum*)

Climate and Agriculture

The overall macroclimate (referring to an extensive region) of central New York is fairly cool and wet. Annual rainfall in the area averages between 21 and 31 inches²⁰⁵. However, the climate of the region is influenced by its geological history. The Finger Lakes, especially the deepest lakes, cause a climate “lake effect,” which moderates temperature, seasonal transitions, and precipitation near the lakes. In conjunction with the topography, this effect results in the creation of mesoclimates or microclimates (definable regions within a larger area) in areas near the lakes, particularly along the southeastern shore of Seneca Lake, which is known locally as the “banana belt” and is home to numerous vineyards.

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau designated the Finger Lakes as an American Viticulture Area in 1982, making it an official wine grape-growing region in the United States. (The area has been amended to include the Cayuga Lake American Viticultural Area and Seneca Lake American Viticultural Area subregions.) While the macroclimate of the region is not suitable for growing grapes, the moderated temperature and precipitation resulting from the “lake effect” creates ideal mesoclimate areas for wine grape growing. In addition, the fractured shale and limestone layers created during the Devonian period and Ice Age keep overlying soils well-drained and allow the long grape vine roots to penetrate deeply. In 2015, there were nearly 10,000 acres of grapes in production and 119 wineries.²⁰⁶ The region

²⁰⁵ Whitesell, Kate. “The Lake Effect on the Surrounding Climate of the Finger Lakes in New York.” <https://keckgeology.org/files/pdf/symvol/18th/fingerlakes/whitesell.pdf>, 60.

²⁰⁶ Thompson, Sarah S. “Finger Lakes Wine Country,” 2015.

Carved door frame at the historic Taylor Wine Company, now home to the Finger Lakes Boating Museum



is also known for their dairy production and apple orchards, in addition to vegetables, corn, and wheat crops. Almost 1.5 million acres of farmland sits within the Finger Lakes region, producing approximately a quarter of the state's total agricultural output.²⁰⁷ These products, particularly the vineyards, attract tourism to the region and contribute to the local economy.

Natural Protected Sites

The study area includes numerous properties and areas protected by federal, state, county, nonprofit, and/or private land managers. While these areas were established to

207 Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, 2019.

provide wildlife habitat and promote healthy ecosystems, many are open to the public and also provide scenic and/or recreational opportunities for locals and visitors. Refuges, preserves, and publicly managed habitat and green spaces show off the unique topography, geology, and natural landscape associated with the Finger Lakes. The protected sites are listed below:

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

The Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 10,004 acres of the Montezuma Swamp and the north end of Cayuga Lake, including the Montezuma Swamp National Natural Landmark. Besides protecting one of the best examples of undisturbed swamp woodlands in New England, the US Fish and Wildlife Service-managed national refuge is a significant spot along the Atlantic Flyway, a route taken by many migratory birds and waterfowl.

Salmon Creek Bird Sanctuary. The Salmon Creek Bird Sanctuary, owned by the Finger Lakes Land Trust, protects 33 acres of Important Bird Area in Tompkins County, as identified by the National Audubon Society.

Finger Lakes National Forest. The only public, federally managed national forest in New York, the 16,212-acre Finger Lakes National Forest sits between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes (Seneca County). The site includes native forestlands, shrublands and grasslands, and diverse wildlife habitats, as well as open land that is managed for free-range cattle grazing. The national forest has over 30 miles of trails and prime wildlife and bird viewing opportunities.

New York State Forests. Managed by the New York State Division of Environmental Conservation's Division of Lands and

Forests, state forests provide recreational opportunities, as well as areas that promote ecosystem health through preservation or sustainable timber management. State forests include thousands of miles of recreation trails open to hiking, biking, snowmobiling,

horse riding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Permits are available for camping, hunting, and trapping at select units. Table 4 lists the state forests, unique areas, and multiple use areas that fall within the study area.

Table 4. New York State Forests

Name	County	Classification	Area
Andersen Hill	Tioga	State Forest	554 acres
Baker School House	Cortland	State Forest	1,277 acres
Bare Hill	Yates, Ontario	Unique Area	393 acres
Bear Swamp	Cayuga	State Forest	3,316 acres
Beaver Dam	Tioga	State Forest	1,148 acres
Beaver Dams	Steuben, Schuyler	State Forest	534 acres
Birdseye Hollow	Steuben	State Forest	3,446 acres
Burt Hill	Steuben	Multiple Use Area	403 acres
Cameron	Steuben	State Forest	1,990 acres
Cameron Mills	Steuben	State Forest	54 acres
Camillus Forest	Onondaga	Unique Area	355 acres
Canacadea	Steuben	State Forest	1,623 acres
Canaseraga	Livingston	State Forest	1,287 acres
Carpenter Falls	Cayuga	Unique Area	36 acres
Catlin	Chemung	State Forest	613 acres
Cinnamon Lake	Schuyler, Steuben	State Forest	1,786 acres
Cliffside	Schuyler	State Forest	977 acres
Coon Hollow	Schuyler	State Forest	2,456 acres
Cuyler Hill	Cortland, Chenango	State Forest	5,507 acres
Danby	Tompkins	State Forest	7,337 acres
Dog Hollow	Cortland	State Forest	723 acres
Donahue Woods	Cortland	State Forest	1,165 acres
Dry Run	Schuyler	State Forest	1,062 acres
Erwin Hollow	Steuben	State Forest	531 acres
Erwin Mountain	Steuben	State Forest	507 acres
Fairfield	Tioga	State Forest	815 acres
Frozen Ocean	Cayuga	State Forest	754 acres
Gee Brook	Cortland	State Forest	878 acres
Groundry Hill	Schuyler	State Forest	2,112 acres

Name	County	Classification	Area
Greenwood	Steuben	State Forest	906 acres
Griggs Gulf	Cortland, Tioga	State Forest	2,365 acres
Hammond Hill	Tompkins, Tioga	State Forest	3,618 acres
Hemlock-Canadice	Livingston, Ontario	State Forest	6,849 acres
Hewitt	Cortland	State Forest	937 acres
Hoxie Gorge	Cortland	State Forest	2,115 acres
Italy Hill	Yates	State Forest	1,899 acres
James Kennedy	Cortland	State Forest	4,422 acres
Jenksville	Tioga	State Forest	1,349 acres
Junius Ponds	Seneca	Unique Area	77 acres
Ketchumville	Tioga	State Forest	503 acres
Kettlebail	Cortland	State Forest	588 acres
Labrador Hollow	Cortland, Onondago	Unique Area	1,474 acres
Maple Hill	Chemung	State Forest	604 acres
Maxon Creek	Cortland	State Forest	908 acres
McCarthy Hill	Steuben	State Forest	794 acres
Meads Creek	Steuben	State Forest	1,452 acres
Michigan Hill	Tioga	State Forest	1,180 acres
Morgan Hill	Onondaga, Cortland	State Forest	5,284 acres
Moss Hill	Steuben	State Forest	1,815 acres
Mount Washington	Steuben	Multiple Use Area	440 acres
Newfield	Tompkins	State Forest	1,552 acres
Oakley Corners	Tioga	State Forest	1,025 acres
Ossian	Livingston	State Forest	1,303 acres
Papish Pond	Cortland	Multiple Use Area	193 acres
Pigtail Hollow	Steuben	State Forest	998 acres
Potato Hill	Tompkins	State Forest	915 acres
Robinson Hollow	Tioga, Tompkins, Cortland	State Forest	1,938 acres
Rock Creek	Steuben	State Forest	704 acres
Rush Oak Openings	Monroe	Unique Area	230 acres
Shindagin Hollow	Tompkins, Tioga	State Forest	783 acres
Sonyea	Livingston	State Forest	922 acres
South Bradford	Steuben	State Forest	1,819 acres
Skenoh Island	Ontario	Unique Area	0.2 acres
Stid Hill	Ontario	Multiple Use Area	847 acres
Sugar Hill	Schuyler	State Forest	9,085 acres

Name	County	Classification	Area
Summer Hill	Cayuga	State Forest	4,355 acres
Taylor Valley	Cortland	State Forest	4,639 acres
Texas Hollow	Schuyler	State Forest	937 acres
Tracy Creek	Broome, Tioga	State Forest	512 acres
Tracy Creek	Steuben	State Forest	569 acres
Tuller Hill	Cortland	State Forest	2,440 acres
Turkey Hill	Tioga	State Forest	1,108 acres
Turkey Ridge	Steuben	State Forest	676 acres
Urbana	Steuben	State Forest	2,690 acres
West Hill	Steuben	State Forest	887 acres
Yellow Barn	Tompkins	State Forest	1,289 acres

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, also oversees conservation easements across the state that protect open space, public access, working forests, unique habitats, and rare and endangered species.

New York State Wildlife Management Areas. These conservation areas are managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The study area includes 24 designated wildlife management areas—totaling over 52,800 acres—which have been set aside by the state for the benefit of wildlife, as well as for public hunting, fishing, and trapping (table 5).

Table 5. New York State Wildlife Management Areas

State Wildlife Management Areas in Study Area	County	Area
Braddock Bay	Monroe	2,402 acres
Canoga Marsh	Seneca	104 acres
Catharine Creek	Schuyler	660 acres
Cayuga Lake	Seneca	225 acres
Cold Brook	Steuben	125 acres
Conesus Inlet	Livingston	1,220 acres
Connecticut Hill	Schuyler, Tompkins	11,161 acres
Cross Lake Islands	Cayuga, Onondaga	27 acres
Erwin	Steuben	2,500 acres
Galen	Wayne	712 acres
Hamlin Marsh	Onondaga	1,689 acres
Helmer Creek	Steuben	126 acres

State Wildlife Management Areas in Study Area	County	Area
High Tor	Ontario, Yates	6,200 acres
Honeoye Creek	Ontario	717 acres
Honeoye Inlet	Ontario	1,981 acres
Lake Shore Marshes	Wayne	6,130 acres
Northern Montezuma	Seneca, Wayne, Cayuga	7,500 acres
Rattlesnake Hill	Livingston, Allegany	5,150 acres
Stid Hill	Ontario	847 acres
Three Rivers	Onondaga	3,586 acres
Waneta–Lamoka	Schuyler	157 acres
West Cameron	Steuben	170 acres
Whitney Point	Broome, Cortland	4,645 acres
Willard	Seneca	158 acres

Cornell Old 600 Natural Area. Located between Hammond Hill State Forest and the Finger Lakes Land Trust’s Roy H. Park Preserve, this 417-acre site is part of a larger forested area known locally as “Slaterville 600” or the “Old 600,” which refers to the size of a military lot of 600 acres given to soldiers in lieu of payment during the Revolutionary War. Much of the site contains old-growth forest (trees older than 150 years).

Finger Lakes Land Trust. Created in 1989 to protect the iconic scenery and natural resources of the Finger Lakes, the Finger Lakes Land Trust has saved over 23,750 acres by creating public reserves and working with private landowners through conservation easements. Over the past 30 years, the nonprofit organization has protected 14,720 feet of lakeshore and helped permanently

conserve 257 parcels throughout the 12-county area that it serves. The 33 nature preserves managed by the trust offer 42.7 miles of trail supported by members and volunteers (table 6). The preserves are free and open to the public for hiking, paddling, birding, and family outings.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust continues to protect an average of 1,000 acres each year through fundraising and the actions of its 2,500 members and 200 volunteers. Current initiatives include creating a 50,000-acre “Emerald Necklace” of public open space around Ithaca.

Table 6. Finger Lakes Land Trust Properties

Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	County	Acreages	Trail Distance
Wesley Hill Nature Preserve	Ontario	390 acres	5.6 miles
Sweedler and Thayer Preserves	Tompkins	155	2+ miles
Bahar Preserve and Carpenter Falls	Cayuga	87	1.6 miles
Grimes Glen County Park	Ontario	32	0.5 miles
Roy H. Park Preserve	Tompkins	241	1.5+ miles
Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary	Cayuga	259	1.25 miles
Steege Hill Nature Preserve	Chemung	793 acres	6.4 miles
Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve	Tompkins	537 acres	3.8 miles
VanRiper Conservation Area and Whitlock Nature Preserve	Seneca	81	1.4 miles
Carolabarb Park	Ontario	38	N/A
Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve	Tompkins	150	1.9 miles
Hinchcliff Family Preserve	Onondaga	206	2.4 miles
Bishop Nature Preserve	Seneca	30	0.75+ miles
Otisco Lake Preserve	Onondaga	36	0.4 miles
Houghton Land Preserve	Steuben	194	1.9 miles
Logan Hill Nature Preserve	Tioga	285 acres	2.5 miles
Kashong Conservation Area	Ontario	84	2.75 miles
Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve	Tompkins	48 acres	1.2 miles
East Shore Preserve at Bare Hill	Yates	2.5 area	Under development
West River Preserve	Yates	64 acres	N/A
Stevenson Forest Preserve	Tompkins	83 acres	1.2 miles
Salmon Creek Bird Sanctuary	Tompkins	33 acres	N/A
King Nature Preserve	Tioga	161	1.25 miles
Plymouth Woods Nature Preserve	Chemung	88	1.6 miles
Parker Nature Preserve	Steuben	170	2 miles
Martin Nature Preserve	Schuyler	110	1.1 miles
Kingsbury Woods Conservation Area	Tompkins	48	1.1 miles
High Vista Nature Preserve	Cortland	139	1.2 miles
Great Hill Nature Preserve	Yates	225	1.75 miles
Goetchius Wetland Preserve	Tompkins	80	0.4 miles
Genung Nature Preserve	Tompkins	53	0.9 miles
Etna Nature Preserve	Tompkins	26	0.4 miles
Dickinson Conservation Area	Onondaga	21	Water only

National Natural Landmarks.

Administered by the National Park Service, the National Natural Landmarks program recognizes the best remaining examples of specific biological and/or geologic features that illustrate the diversity of the United States' natural landscape. More than 600 natural areas have received this honor, 7 of which are within the Finger Lakes NHA study area. The 7 national natural landmarks within the feasibility study represent unique or rare biological communities and land/water features created by the glaciers responsible for the Finger Lakes. National Natural Landmarks include:

- **Fall Brook Gorge.** Located in the Town of Geneseo (Livingston County), the Fall Brook Gorge represents one of the finest exposures of Upper and Middle Devonian Age strata in the United States. The gorge showcases significant fossil remains and a caprock waterfall, as well as plant and animal communities associated with sharply contrasting microclimates. The 102-acre parcel, which is privately owned, was designated a national natural landmark in 1970.
- **Hart's Woods.** Hart's Woods in Perinton, New York (Monroe County), is a rare remnant of the beech-maple forest that once extended along the glaciated area from southeastern Wisconsin to north-central New York. The 14-acre site was designated a national natural landmark in 1972. The site is now open to the public as Hart's Woods Open Space, which is owned and managed by the Town of Perinton Recreation and Parks Department. Visitors to the woods can hike through the parcel and see the developmental stages of an old-growth forest.
- **McLean Bogs.** The 81-acre McLean Bogs National Natural Landmark in Dryden (Tompkins County) includes two kettle bogs—one acidic and one alkaline—and the surrounding woodland, which is one of the best examples of a northern deciduous forest in New York. The site was donated to Cornell University in the 1930s and designated a national natural landmark in 1973. Cornell Botanical Gardens currently manages the site and supports ongoing scientific research, but public access to the property is restricted.
- **Mendon Ponds Park.** Mendon Ponds Park contains unique glacially created features, including kames, eskers, esker fans, kettle holes, erratics, sphagnum moss peat bogs, and ponds. The national natural landmark, designated in 1967, sits within the towns of Mendon and Pittsford and is preserved as a Monroe County park. At almost 2,500 acres, Mendon Ponds Park is the largest park in Monroe County and offers many recreational facilities and opportunities including hiking, fishing, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing.
- **Montezuma Marshes.** Montezuma Marshes National Natural Landmark, located within the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, is a 2,100-acre national natural landmark situated at the north end of Cayuga Lake (Seneca County). Designated in 1973, the landmark contains approximately 100-acres of undisturbed swamp woodlands, one of the best examples of this type of environment in New York or New England. The Montezuma Wildlife Refuge is managed by the US Fish

and Wildlife Service and provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, environmental education, and photography.

- **Round Lake.** The Round Lake National Natural Landmark, designated in 1973, includes a meromictic lake surrounded by 20 acres of maple-basswood-rich mesic old-growth forest. Round Lake is located near Syracuse (Onondaga County) in Green Lakes State Park, which boasts two glacial lakes and related upland forests. Visitors can rent rowboats or kayaks during the summer months to explore the lake. The state park also operates campsites, an 18-hole golf course that is open to snowshoeing during the winter, and 15 miles of year-round trails.
- **Zurich Bog.** Zurich Bog is a good example of a northern sphagnum bog and bog forest vegetation, both of which are rare in north-central New York (Wayne County). Designated in 1973, the 490-acre national natural landmark is situated between glacial drumlins and privately owned by the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society, a conservation group. Access is by permission only.

SELECT CULTURAL RESOURCES

Many publicly managed cultural sites contribute to a strategic assemblage of resources supporting a determination of national importance. See figure 3, highlighting select cultural resources.

National Park System Units

Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. Established in 2017, Harriet Tubman National Historic Park in Auburn and Fleming, New

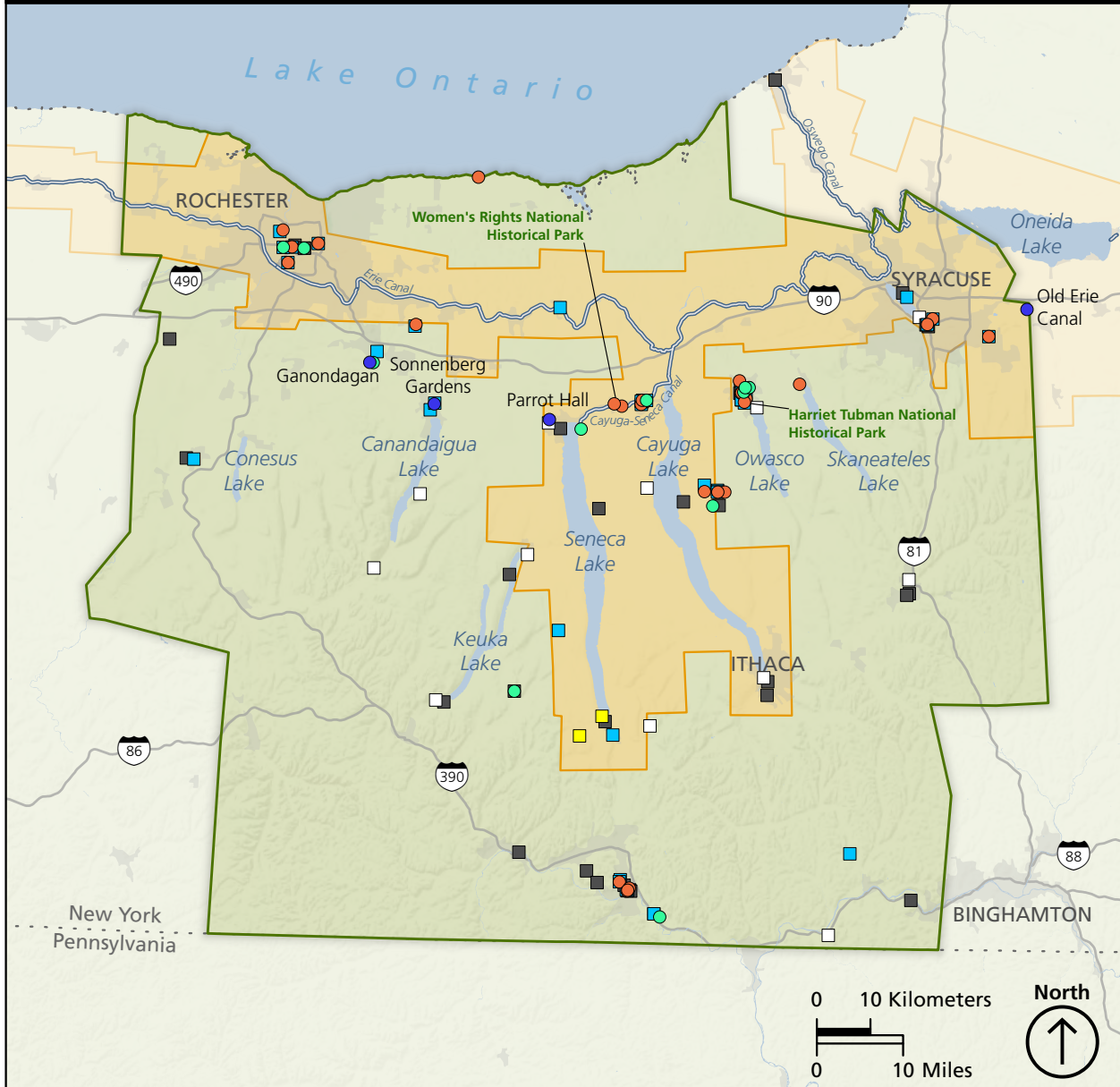
York, preserves and interprets historic properties associated with Tubman’s adult life in central New York. In 1859, years after she emancipated herself and approximately 70 other enslaved individuals through the Underground Railroad, Tubman purchased a 7-acre farm in Auburn, New York. Later she purchased an adjacent 25-acre parcel in the hopes of starting a home for elderly African Americans. The park consists of a 32-acre campus that includes the park visitor center, the Harriet Tubman Residence, the Tubman Home for the Aged, and the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church. The site is currently operated by NPS nonprofit partner Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. The partner-operated visitor center is open Tuesday through Saturdays, and guided tours of the Tubman Home for the Aged are available during operating hours for a small fee. The Tubman Residence and Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church are not currently open to visitors, but park grounds are open from dawn to dusk. While current services at the new park unit are limited, the National Park Service is working to document and rehabilitate the historic church and adjacent parsonage to use as park administration space, and a visitor support center and continues to support the managing nonprofit.

Women’s Rights National Historical Park.

Women’s Rights National Historical Park preserves and interprets four discontinuous historic sites associated with the struggle for equal rights for women: Wesleyan Chapel and Declaration Park, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, the M’Clintock House, and the Hunt House. The park visitor center, located in downtown Seneca Falls, is open Wednesday through Sunday and offers exhibits related to the women’s rights movement, a park film, and regularly scheduled site orientation

Cultural Sites
Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New York State Historic Sites ● National Historic Landmarks ● Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Members Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Study Area 	<p>Resources Associated with Finger Lakes Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Traditions Innovations and Lasting Legacies Social Ideals Translated into National Movements Historic Connections and Transportation 	<p>New York</p>
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Figure 3. Select cultural resources of the Finger Lakes NHA study area and a sample of sites contributing to themes of a potential national heritage area (see appendix B).

programs/tours. The reconstructed Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, the location of the First Women’s Rights Convention held July 19–20, 1848, is open daily and offers hourly showings of the “Dreams of Equality” film, while the adjacent Declaration Park provides an outdoor space for visitors to reflect on the Declaration of Sentiments, a document of enduring relevance. The Seneca Falls home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the main organizer of the Women’s Rights Convention, and the M’Clintock House, the Waterloo home where the convention was planned and the Declaration of Sentiments was drafted, are open for 30-minute guided tours.

The park also administers the National Votes for Women Trail, a national program that recognizes sites across the United States associated with the untold stories of suffrage for all women. The program’s database includes over 1,000 sites—several of which are located in the Finger Lakes NHA study area—and 250 historic roadside markers.

National Historic Landmarks

Only 3% of the more than 90,000 properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are recognized with national historic landmark (NHL) status. The NHL program highlights properties of exceptional value in terms of national significance and integrity. Twelve national historic landmarks are located within the Finger Lakes study area; these properties range from archeological sites that shaped the fundamental understanding of North American early hunter and gatherers to the only unaltered religious interior design by the Tiffany glassworks. Most of the national historic landmarks within the study area are open to the public.

- **Susan B. Anthony House.** The 1859, two-story Italianate house in Rochester (Monroe County), New York, that American civil rights leader Susan B. Anthony called home for 40 years was designated a national historic landmark in 1965 for its close association with Anthony. Anthony, along with her sister Mary and mother Lucy, moved into the house in 1865, and it became the site of Anthony’s 1872 arrest after voting in a presidential election and headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association after she was elected as the group’s president in 1892. The house was purchased by the Rochester Federation of Women’s Clubs in 1945 to create a museum dedicated to Anthony’s efforts and the women’s suffrage movement. Today, the national historic landmark is open to the public as the National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House and continues to share Anthony’s work through exhibits, tours, and programs with the hopes of inspiring and challenging visitors to make a positive difference in the world.
- **Boughton Hill (Gannagaro).** Designated a national historic landmark in 1964, Boughton Hill in the present-day town of Victor (Ontario County) is the site of Gannagaro, the largest Seneca village during the 17th century and a location connected to creation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The 245-acre national historic landmark includes the sites of the longhouses and burials associated with the village, as well as the sites of various archeological surveys that produced a large quantity of trade goods and other artifacts. Gannagaro is part of the Ganondagan State Historic Site,

created in 1987 as the only New York State historic site dedicated to a Native American theme.

- **George Eastman’s House.** Located in Rochester (Monroe County), George Eastman’s 1905 Colonial Revival Mansion was designated a national historic landmark for its association with Eastman, a pioneer in photography and film and the founder of the Kodak Camera Company. Eastman lived at the site until his death in 1935, when the estate was willed to the University of Rochester for use as the university president’s home. Being much too big for its intended purpose, the university donated the Eastman house and surrounding property in 1947 to a newly created George Eastman House educational nonprofit dedicated to photography and film. The nonprofit opened the house to the public as the George Eastman Museum the next year. Today, the museum is the world’s oldest photography museum and one of the oldest film archives. The house, which is incorporated into the connecting museum and was restored in the 1990s, and its gardens are open to visitors for guided tours, self-guided strolls, summertime concerts, and special events.
- **Lamoka.** The Lamoka Lake archeological site in Tyrone (Schulyer County), New York, provided the first clear evidence of an Archaic hunting and gathering culture in the northeastern United States, dating back to circa 3,500 BCE. Lamoka was designated a national historic landmark in 1961, based on data and artifacts collected during professional excavations beginning in the 1920s. The site is split between the

Waneta–Lamoka Wildlife Management Area, which is overseen by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and property owned and protected by the Archaeological Conservancy.

- **New York State Barge Canal.** The New York State Canal System is remarkable in its span, scope, and historical integrity. The national historic landmark, designated in 2017, includes 450 miles of navigation channels and 552 contributing structures and buildings that operate largely as they did when the system went into operation in 1918. The navigation channels, locks, lift bridges, dams, power houses, and maintenance shops located along the Erie Canal, Oswego Canal, Champlain Canal, and Cayuga-Seneca Canal together represent a significant, distinctive, and exceptional feat of engineering.
- **Newtown Battlefield.** The Battle of Newtown was the most significant engagement of the Sullivan Campaign, the largest offensive campaign of the American Revolutionary War. During the summer of 1779, American General John Sullivan led Continental forces into the interior of Pennsylvania and New York to destroy Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) food stores, crops, and villages in an effort to punish the Native nations that supported the British. While the expedition’s primary focus was the “total destruction and devastation” of settlements, the Battle of Newtown on August 29, 1779, represents one of the only formal confrontations between Continental Army and British regiments and Indigenous forces during the Sullivan Campaign. Although casualties on both

sides were limited, the battle marked the end of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy as a threat to the Continental Army and a crippling blow to the Haudenosaunee way of life in interior New York.

Designated a national historic landmark in 1972, the 2,100-acre battlefield stretches over the towns of Ashland, Chemung, and Elmira. A portion of the site is now owned by the State of New York and is open to the public as part of Newtown Battlefield State Park.

- **Rose Hill.** Built in 1837, Rose Hill is a “monumental scale” Greek Revival mansion overlooking Seneca Lake in Fayette (Ontario County), New York. The house, which resembles a two-story Greek temple with six Ionic columns and was once the heart of a successful working farm, was designated a national historic landmark in 1986 for its architectural significance. Since 1968, the landmark has been owned by the Geneva Historical Society and operated

as a historic site. Rose Hill Mansion is open for seasonal guided tours in which visitors can see 20 restored and refurbished rooms that represent life at the farm during the 1850s.

- **William H. Seward House.** In 1824, a young William H. Seward married Francis Miller, the daughter of a prominent Cayuga County family, and moved into the Millers’ family home outside Auburn. The house, which was built in 1816 for Francis’s father, Cayuga County Judge and Seward’s senior law partner Elijah Miller, passed from Elijah Miller to his daughters upon his 1851 death. While William Seward advanced his political career in Albany as a New York State senator (1831–1834) and governor (1839–1842) and later as a US senator (1849–1861) and US secretary of state (1861–1869), Francis and the couple’s children and grandchildren stayed in Auburn. After his retirement from the State Department, Seward

Rose Hill Mansion



returned to Auburn and made the house his permanent home until his death in 1872. The house, which was the only residence ever owned by William H. Seward, was opened to the public in 1955 as a living memorial to Seward and his political accomplishments. The site was designated a national historic landmark in 1964. Visitors to the Seward House Museum may tour the house, which is furnished with Seward family collections.

- **Elizabeth Cady Stanton House.** Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the outspoken social progressive that championed temperance, women’s rights, and abolitionism, called her Seneca Falls home the “Center of the Rebellion.” During the 14 years that Stanton lived in the Washington Street house (1847–1862), she helped organize the first Women’s Rights Convention and opened her home to others who were speaking out about women’s rights. Designated a national historic landmark in 1965, the house is now owned by the National Park Service and open to the public as part of Women’s Rights National Historic Park.
- **Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, Harriet Tubman Residence, and Thompson A.M.E. Zion Church.** Noted abolitionist Harriet Tubman moved to Auburn (Cayuga County), New York—a center of progressive thought and reform causes including abolition and women’s suffrage—in 1857. The 2001 national historic landmark designation includes the residence where Tubman lived during much of her time in Auburn, the home for indigent and elderly African Americans that she opened in 1896 and later became a resident of, and the church where she worshipped. The

properties are now part of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park and owned by the National Park Service.

- **Willard Memorial Chapel-Welch Memorial Hall.** Part of the former Auburn Theological Seminary campus in downtown Auburn (Cayuga County), the Willard Memorial Chapel-Welch Memorial Hall was built 1892–1894 and is one of the last surviving complete installations of Tiffany interiors and stained-glass windows in their original locations. The chapel was designated a national historic landmark in 2005 for its association with Louis Comfort Tiffany and the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company as an outstanding example of Tiffany’s craftsmanship and approach to interior design. While the property is considered nationally significant for its architecture, the Presbyterian Auburn Theological Seminary opened in 1818 to support the religious fervor in central New York. Today, the chapel is managed by the nonprofit Community Preservation Committee and is open to guided tours and is available for rentals and special events.
- **Jethro Wood House.** Jethro Wood patented the first commercially successful cast-iron plow in 1814 and renewed the patent in 1819. The two-story clapboard house in Poplar Ridge (Cayuga County), New York, where Wood lived from 1800 until his 1834 death, was designated a national historic landmark in 1964 for its association with the inventor and the plow’s impact on 19th-century agriculture. The house, which has been painstakingly restored by previous owners, is still maintained as a private residence and is not open to the public.

National Heritage Area

Erie Canalway National Heritage

Corridor. Established by Congress in 2000, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor recognizes the national significance of the New York State Barge Canal System. The 524-mile canal system includes the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain Canals and their historic alignments, reaching from Albany in the east to Buffalo in the west and Lake Champlain in the north. The canal system was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. The Cayuga-Seneca Canal—one of the four canals within the national heritage corridor—includes 89 miles of channelized rivers and lakes connecting Seneca Lake, Cayuga Lake, the Seneca River, and 3 miles of land-cut channel. While the Erie Canal travels through the northern section of the Finger Lakes study area, the corridor focuses on the legacy of the canal, as it redefined transportation across central New York and created routes for people, goods, and ideas to travel from the established population centers of the East Coast into the early 19th-century western frontier. The five themes of the Canalway’s national importance, identified in the *Erie Canalway’s Preservation and Management Plan* (2008), are nation building, economic development, national identity, engineering, and social innovation and reform.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor provided a letter with comments on the feasibility of establishing a Finger Lakes national heritage area that potentially overlapped with the existing national heritage corridor in terms of boundaries,

resources, and themes. Their letter, which was incorporated into the evaluation of NHA criteria, is included on pages 284 to 286 in appendix D.

Susquehanna National Heritage Area.

Congress designated the portion of the Susquehanna River that flows through Pennsylvania’s Lancaster and York Counties as a national heritage area in 2019. The Susquehanna National Heritage Area recognizes the river’s importance as an early gateway to America’s frontier, facilitating transportation, trade, and political development in the United States. Today, the national heritage area is known for its scenic beauty, rich agriculture, and the culture of Amish and other Old World communities.

NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Members and Sites

Created in 1988, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom is a federal program to honor, preserve, and promote the history of resistance to enslavement through escape. The program consists of sites, programs, and facilities with a verifiable connection to the Underground Railroad. Of the more than 680 locations that have been designated part of the network, 30 are found within the Finger Lakes study area (table 7). These sites—which include NPS units, national historic landmarks, churches, historic homes, and cemeteries—illustrate the overlap of abolition and other 19th-century social movements in central New York.

Table 7. National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member Sites

NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	City	County
Cayuga County Courthouse	Auburn	Cayuga County
Harriet Tubman Burial Site at Fort Hill Cemetery	Auburn	Cayuga County
Harriet Tubman House	Auburn	Cayuga County
Seymour Library	Auburn	Cayuga County
Thomas Elliot and Ann Marie Stewart Elliot House	Auburn	Cayuga County
William and Frances Seward House	Auburn	Cayuga County
Herman and Hannah Phillips House	Aurora	Cayuga County
Howland Stone Store	Aurora	Cayuga County
North Street Meeting House	Aurora	Cayuga County
Erie Canalway Underground Railroad Program – Portions of Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor overlap with Finger Lakes NHA study area	Cohoes	Albany County
First Baptist Church of Elmira	Elmira	Chemung County
Jervis Langdon	Elmira	Chemung County
Park Church	Elmira	Chemung County
Second Street Cemetery	Elmira	Chemung County
Woodlawn Cemetery	Elmira	Chemung County
1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse	Farmington	Ontario County
Matilda Joslyn Gage House	Fayetteville	Onondaga County
Samuel and Elizabeth Cuyler House Site	Pultneyville	Wayne County
Awaakaba’s Riverstroll	Rochester	Monroe County
Kelsey’s Landing at Lower Falls	Rochester	Monroe County
Many Roads to Freedom	Rochester	Monroe County
Mount Hope Cemetery	Rochester	Monroe County
Joshua W. Samantha Wright House	Seneca Falls	Seneca County
Thomas and Elizabeth James House	Seneca Falls	Seneca County
Slocum and Hannah Howland House	Sherwood	Cayuga County
James Canning and Lydia Fuller House	Skaneateles	Onondaga County
George and Rebecca Barnes House	Syracuse	Onondaga County
Onondaga Historical Association Museum	Syracuse	Onondaga County
Hunt House (Women’s Rights National Historical Park)	Waterloo	Seneca County
M’Clintock House (Women’s Rights National Historical Park)	Waterloo	Seneca County

New York State Heritage Areas

Much like the National Heritage Areas Program, New York State heritage areas highlight areas where unique qualities of geography, history, and culture create a distinctive identity. The program was formerly known as the Urban Cultural Park System and promotes state-local partnerships. The 17 state heritage areas and heritage corridors focus on preservation, education, recreation, and economic revitalization. Each New York State heritage area includes a visitor center and promotes the history and identity of communities across the state. Four New York State heritage areas are in the Finger Lakes study area:

- **Seneca Falls Urban Heritage Area.** The Seneca Falls New York State heritage area recognizes the town’s role in 19th-century reform movements. The area includes both sides of the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, the historic main street, and sites associated with the women’s rights movement.
- **Syracuse Urban Heritage Area.** The central city business district south of the I-690 and I-81 interchange was designated a New York State heritage area to interpret transportation, business, and capital that first developed from salt mining and subsequently boomed after the Erie Canal opened.

- **Rochester High Falls Urban Heritage Area.** Encompassing both sides of Genesee River from Lowe Falls Park to Andrews Street, this New York State heritage area focuses on High Falls, a complex of mills, factories, and archeological sites that show how Rochester rose to 19th-century industrial prominence.
- **Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor.** Designated in 1999, this five-county corridor interprets and promotes the largely intact, westernmost sections of the Erie Canal found in Niagara, Erie, Monroe, Orleans, and Wayne Counties.

New York State Historic Sites

- **Ganondagan State Historic Site.** The state historic site in Ontario County, which includes the Boughton Hill (Gannagaro) National Historic Landmark, features a 17,300-square foot Seneca Art and Culture Center that has an interactive exhibit gallery, an orientation theater showing the Iroquois creation story film, an auditorium, and a gift shop. Visitors can view a full-size Seneca Bark Longhouse (constructed in 1998), follow two interpretive trails to learn more about Haudenosaunee cultural and history, plant life, and the history and importance of Fort Hill—a palisaded granary used by the Haudenosaunee people—and take part in special events and programs offered throughout the year.

-
- **Newtown Battlefield State Park.** The site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Newtown, this 372-acre state park in Elmira, New York, has a granite monument erected in 1912 to commemorate the Sullivan Campaign and Civilian Conservation Corps-era facilities, including a rustic lodge. Visitors to the park can hike on the short trail network, camp in the developed campground, and access nearby public boat launches.
 - **Military Museum at Sampson State Park/Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery.** After the closures of the former Seneca County’s Sampson Naval Training Station and Sampson Air Force Base in 2000, more than 2,000 acres of the former military installation were set aside as Sampson State Park. The site’s military history is interpreted through a volunteer-managed museum. The 162-acre Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery sits south of Sampson State Park and was dedicated in 2011.
 - **Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park.** Frederick Ferris Thompson, a prominent New York City banker, purchased the Sonnenberg property in 1863 as a summer home after his wife Mary Clark Thompson’s family—who had ties to Canandaigua (Ontario County)—introduced him to the Finger Lakes. The Thompsons constructed a 40-room Queen Anne mansion to replace the original farmhouse and cultivated nine gardens showcasing a variety of early 20th-century landscaping trends. Opened to the public in 1973, the 50-acre property includes restored gardens, historic home furnishings, and the Finger Lakes Wine Center. The historic site was purchased by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in 2005 and is one of only two public gardens in the New York State Parks System.

SELECT RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Many publicly managed natural sites contribute to a strategic assemblage of resources supporting a determination of national importance. Examples of these sites follow.

New York State Parks

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation administers over 350,000 acres of land across the state, including 189 state parks, 35

historic sites, 30 nature centers, and 83 marine facilities and boat launch sites, many of them in the study area (table 8). Its Finger Lakes region (Region 11) covers Tioga, Chemung Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Yates, Seneca, Cayuga, Ontario, and Wayne Counties and contains the notable waterfalls and gorges that have come to represent the area.²⁰⁸

²⁰⁸ Livingston and Monroe Counties in the northwestern portion of the study area are included in Region 3 – Genesee; Cortland and Onondaga Counties in the easternmost part of the study area are considered part of Region 5 – Central.

Table 8. New York State Parks in the Finger Lakes NHA Study Area

New York State Park	County	Brief Description	Acreage
Beechwood State Park	Wayne	Previously the site of a Girl Scout camp that closed in the 1990s, the Town of Sodus has managed the park since 2010. Overnight camping is permitted with registration.	288 acres
Braddock Bay State Park	Monroe	Operated by the Town of Greece, the park is a popular birdwatching destination and part of the 2,125-acre Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area. The park is currently part of the Braddock Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project, which is led by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The park features trails, visitor amenities, and two lodges.	375 acres
Buttermilk Falls State Park	Tompkins	The park features several waterfalls and wooded gorges and offers hiking trails, picnic areas, playing areas, and a campground.	811 acres
Cayuga Lake State Park	Seneca	The park offers beach access, campsites, cabins, and fishing access along the shore of Cayuga Lake.	141 acres
Chimney Bluffs State Park	Wayne	The park features dramatically carved 150-foot-tall shoreside cliffs formed from eroded drumlins. The park offers picnic amenities and is for day-use only.	597 acres
Clark Reservation State Park	Onondaga	The park is centered around the former plunge pool of a large Ice Age-era waterfall and harbors the largest US population of the endangered American hart's tongue fern. The park includes a nature center, trails, picnic tables, pavilions, and fishing access.	378 acres

New York State Park	County	Brief Description	Acreage
Fair Haven Beach State Park	Cayuga	Located on the eastern shoreline of Lake Ontario, this park offers shoreline bluffs, sandy beaches, and adjoining hilly woodlands. Visitors can enjoy swimming, biking, hiking, picnicking, camping, and fishing. In the winter, cross-country skiing and ice fishing are popular.	1,141 acres
Fillmore Glen State Park	Cayuga	Known for its waterfalls, the park also has 60 campsites, a stream-fed swimming pool, and fishing access on the Owasco Lake inlet.	941 acres
Genesee Valley Greenway	Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany	The state park is a 90-mile corridor that follows the route of the Genesee Valley Canal (1840–1878) and the Pennsylvania Railroad Rochester Branch (1882–1963) from the Erie Canalway Trail to the Village of Cuba.	1,364 acres
Green Lakes State Park	Onondaga	The park features two glacial lakes (Round and Green Lakes) surrounded by upland forest. The park offers camping, nonmotorized boat rentals, trails, and access to swimming, fishing, and hunting.	1,957 acres
Hamlin Beach State Park	Monroe	Located on the shore of Lake Ontario, the park offers clear water, sandy beaches, and 264 tent and trailer campsites. In addition, the park has 6 miles of hiking and biking trails and other visitor amenities.	1,287 acres
Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park	Monroe	This park is operated by the town of Irondequoit and facilitates fishing and boating access to Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay.	44 acres
Kekua Lake State Park	Yates	Located in the heart of wine country, this park offers views of vineyard-covered slopes and views of Kekua Lake. The park offers 150 tent and trailer sites, a swim beach, boat launch, picnic shelters, and hiking trails.	621 acres
Letchworth State Park	Livingston, Wyoming	Known as the “Grand Canyon of the East,” Letchworth State Park encompasses the Genesee River as it roars through the gorge over three major waterfalls. The park includes 66 miles of hiking trails, a nature center, bird conservation area, and performing arts programs.	14,427 acres
Lock 32 State Canal Park	Monroe	Located on the Erie Canal, this park offers picnic areas and includes lock #32 on the canal.	9 acres
Lodi Point State Park	Seneca	This park primarily provides boating access to Seneca Lake.	12 acres

New York State Park	County	Brief Description	Acreage
Long Point State Park – Finger Lakes	Cayuga	The park sits on Long Point, a peninsula jutting into Lake Chautauqua. The day-use park includes a marina and thickly wooded areas.	297 acres
Mark Twain State Park	Chemung	Named after the 19th-century author who spent summers in the area, the park offers hunting, cross-country skiing, and the Soaring Eagles Golf Course.	464 acres
Newton Battlefield State Park	Chemung	This historic park includes the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Newton (see the “National Historic Landmarks” section).	372 acres
Pinnacle State Park	Steuben	The park offers views of the Canisteo River Valley, Harris Hill, and the village of Addison. Recreational amenities include picnic tables, fishing on Levi Pond, hunting access, 11 miles of hiking trails, and cross-country skiing.	714 acres
Robert H. Treman State Park	Tompkins	The park includes winding trails through the Enfield Glen gorge, a stream-fed swimming pool, cabins, campsites, and hunting and fishing access.	1,257 acres
Sampson State Park	Seneca	Along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, Sampson State Park was created on former military reservation land after the 2000 closure of Sampson Air Force Base. The park offers over 300 campsites and a marina with over 100 boat slips. The park also provides hiking trails and hunting and fishing access.	2,070 acres
Seneca Lake State Park	Seneca	This day-use park offers a swimming beach on Seneca Lake, boat docks, playground facilities, nature trails, and access to fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing.	141 acres
Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park	Ontario	One of just two public gardens in New York State, this park is a historic site.	50 acres
State Park at the Fair	Onondaga	Billed as “New York’s Smallest State Park,” the parklike setting is open during the annual 18-day Great New York State Fair and includes exhibits highlighting state natural and historic areas.	1 acre
Stony Brook State Park	Steuben	The park features a rugged gorge in the rolling hills of the state. The park offers camping and picnicking amenities, playing fields, a stream-fed pool, and three hiking trails.	568 acres

New York State Park	County	Brief Description	Acreage
Taughannock Falls State Park	Tompkins	Named after the falls that plunge 215 feet within the gorge, the park offers rim trails with spectacular views. A marina, boat launch, beach and campsites are also available along the shores of Cayuga Lake.	308 acres
Watkins Glen State Park	Schuyler	This park includes the 400-foot descent of the glen's stream, which generates 19 waterfalls along its course. The park boasts an Olympic-size pool, campsites, picnic facilities, and fishing on Seneca Lake or Catherine Creek.	778 acres

New York State Marine Parks and Boat Launches

- **Allan H. Treman State Marine Park.** Home to one of the largest inland marinas in New York State (Tompkins County), the Allan H. Treman State Marine Park offers over 400 boat slips to those looking for a port off the Barge Canal system. The marina-only park is connected to downtown

Allan H. Treman State Marine Park in Tompkins County



Ithaca via the Cayuga Waterfront Trail and also provides great birdwatching opportunities along the Hog Hole Wetland and Cayuga Lake shoreline.

- **Canandaigua Lake State Marine Park.** The state-run boat launch facility provides fishing access to Canandaigua Lake.
- **Deans Cove Boat Launch.** Located in Romulus (Seneca County), the boat launch provides fishing access to Cayuga Lake.
- **Honeoye Lake Boat Launch.** Part of Stony Brook State Park (Ontario County), the boat launch provides year-round access to Honeoye Lake; ice fishing is allowed during the winter months.

National Recreation Trails

Created by Congress in 1968, the National Trails System includes more than 1,300 national recreation trails that provide land and water-based recreational opportunities on federal, state, and local land across the country. Six trails in the study area are part of the national recreational trail network.

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- **Beaver Lake Nature Center Trails System.** Beaver Lake Nature Center, managed by Onondaga County Parks and located about 15 minutes from downtown Syracuse, boasts 10 miles of overland trails and 3 miles of water trails. The system was designated a national recreational trail in 1980.
 - **Genesee Riverway Trail.** Designated a national recreation trail in 2006, the Genesee Riverway Trail runs 15 miles along the Genesee River in downtown Rochester. The off-road asphalt trail connects 11 parks, the University of Rochester, and 9 historic districts; links urban neighborhoods to city attractions and services; and provides public access to the river.
 - **Genesee Valley Greenway State Park Trail.** The 84-mile trail follows the path of the former Genesee Canal and Pennsylvania Railroad Rochester branch from downtown Rochester through Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany, and Cattaraugus Counties to the southern terminus in the Village of Cuba. Designated a national recreation trail in 2014, the greenway is a scenic and recreational resource that provides opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.
 - **Interloken National Recreation Trail.** Located in Finger Lakes National Forest, the 12-mile backcountry trail follows the Hector backbone between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. The Interloken Trail was added to the national recreation trail program in 1979
 - **New York State Canalway Water Trail.** The 450-mile water trail follows the land cut canals, lakes, and rivers associated with the New York State Canalway System. Administered by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, the water trail was added to the National Trails program in 2022.
 - **Old Erie Canal State Park.** Designated a national recreation trail in 1981, Old Erie Canal State Park is 36 miles of restored segments of the canal's waterway and towpath between Syracuse and Rome, New York.

Trails

- **Finger Lakes Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail.** The Finger Lakes Trail System runs over 950 miles from the New York-Pennsylvania border to the Catskills and covers some of the most scenic landscape in New York State. Within the study area, the Finger Lakes Trail overlaps with 430 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail, a 4,600-mile scenic trail that travels from Lake Champlain to the Missouri River in North Dakota.
The North Country National Scenic Trail is administered as a unit of the national park system.
- **Black Diamond Trail.** Located on the western slope of Cayuga Lake (Tompkins County), the 8.4-mile, stone-dust trail was converted from a railroad bed into a multiuse pathway for hiking, jogging, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Trailheads are located in Cass Park/Allan H. Treman State Marine Park and Taughannock Falls State Park.

- **Catharine Valley Trail.** The year-round recreation trail follows abandoned railroad and canal towpath corridors south of Seneca Lake and through Watkins Glen State Park (Schulyer and Chemung Counties). When construction is complete, the trail will extend 12 miles from the Village of Watkins Glen to Horseheads.
- **Genesee Valley Greenway.** The 90-mile public, multiuse trail follows the route of the Genesee Valley Canal and Pennsylvania Railroad Rochester Branch. The trail extends from the Erie Canalway Trail in Rochester (Monroe County) to the Village of Cuba in Allegany County and will eventually extend further south into Cattaraugus County.
- **Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area.** This state-managed recreation area in Springwater (Livingston County) offers approximately 18 miles of hiking, cross-country skiing, and bike trails, well as a designated picnic area.
- **Two Rivers State Park Recreation Area.** Near the Upper Waverly Reservoirs (Chemung and Tioga Counties), the 4.5-mile trail system at Two Rivers State Park is open for hiking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing.
- **Cayuga Lake Waterfront Trail.** The 8-mile, multiuse trail, which is compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), connects waterfront destinations on the southern shore of Cayuga Lake in downtown Ithaca (Tompkins County). The trail includes interpretive signs, restrooms, benches, and connections to the Ithaca Farmers Market, Allen H.

Treman State Marine Park, the Ithaca Children’s Garden, and the Black Diamond trail.

Themed Itineraries/Tourism Trails

- **New York State Women’s Heritage Trail.** The statewide trail connects 23 historic sites interpreting the role women played in the building of New York State. Six of the sites included on the heritage trail are located within the Finger Lakes study area: the Women’s Rights National Historic Park (Seneca Falls, New York); the Susan B. Anthony House (Rochester, New York), Ganondagan State Historic Site (Victor, New York), Howland Stone Store Museum (Aurora, New York), the Harriet Tubman Home (Auburn, New York), and the Matilda Joslyn Gage Home (Fayetteville, New York).
- **Free Thought Trail.** A project of the Council for Secular Humanism, the Free Thought trail highlights 185 sites across west-central New York State that are associated with the history of radical social reform. The trail’s website organizes sites associated with abolition, anarchism, sex radicalism, dress reform, utopian communities, atheism, scientific knowledge, and suffrage. The trail is associated with the Robert Green Ingersoll Birthplace Museum in Amherst (Erie County), a historic site that celebrates the life and contributions of the 19th-century orator, political speechmaker, and outspoken agnostic.
- **Wine Trails.** The majority of the region’s wineries are clustered around the four central Finger Lakes, each of

Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway sign along two-lane roadway



which promotes local wine culture as well as breweries, restaurants, boutique shopping, regional events, and the small towns that rim the lakes. At 41 miles,

Canandaigua Lake Wine Trail is the shortest trail and appropriate for day trips. Cayuga Lake Wine Trail, established in 1983 to promote emerging wineries as a collective, is considered “America’s First Wine Trail.” Keuka Lake Wine Trail celebrates the site of the birth of the American wine industry in the 1860s. The Seneca Lake Wine Trail is the largest and most active of the existing trails, with 35 member wineries.

New York State Scenic Byways

The New York State Scenic Byway system includes both federal and state designated byways and is administered through the New York State Department of Transportation. New York State 1995 Highway Law (HAY349-aa-dd) defines “scenic byways” as transportation routes of particular scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, or archeological characteristics that are managed to protect those distinctive resources and

View of one of the many vineyards located on Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway



encourage tourism and recreation. Five of the 29 designated New York State scenic byways travel through the Finger Lakes study area.

- **The Great Lakes Seaway Trail** is both a national and state scenic byway. The route skirts the southern shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie and runs the entire length of New York’s northeast boundary. The route travels through portions of Monroe, Wayne, and Cayuga Counties within the Finger Lakes study area.
- **Route 20 Scenic Byway** starts south of Syracuse in Onondaga County and travels 108 miles east through seven counties into the Capital Region outside Albany. This byway is a small section of the 1927 transcontinental US Route 20 highway, which stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Coast of Oregon.
- **Scenic Route 90 Scenic Byway** runs 50 miles between the towns of Homer and Montezuma, providing scenic views of Cayuga Lake and access to some of the state’s best hiking opportunities.
- **The Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway** winds through Cayuga, Seneca, and Tompkins Counties. The 86-mile loop around Cayuga Lake created by State Routes 90, 34B, 34, 89, and 5/20 showcases the attractive lake views, glacial topography, and mix of small towns, vineyards, and farms that have come to define the Finger Lakes.
- **Seneca Lake Scenic Byway** connects Watkins Glen, Hector, and Lodi. Over the 19-mile route, visitors can see landscapes shaped by the last Ice Age, the southern portion of Seneca Lake, farms, and historic sites.

ADDITIONAL STUDY AREA RESOURCES

Throughout the course of the feasibility study, local experts, members of the public, and NPS program staff suggested additional natural, cultural, historic, educational, and recreational resources found within the 14-county legislated study area. Every suggestion was reviewed and considered by the study team. Appendix B includes many of the suggestions submitted during the development of this study.

Some resources associated with the Finger Lakes study area are not individual sites, but types of resources found throughout the 14 counties identified as the NHA study area. The broader types of resources that contribute to the cultural landscape are briefly described below.

- **Natural features.** The Finger Lakes study area includes landscape-scale geological features that can be viewed from scenic overlooks and high points throughout the region. Some of these individual features are included within the boundaries of state-managed parks and forests, while others are privately owned. Freshwater resources, ranging from glacial lakes to waterfalls and cascades, contribute to the feel and appearance of the entire region. The improved water quality in the Finger Lakes is a testament of decades of conservation work aimed at protecting municipal water sources and improve overall water quality. Gorges, gullies, and other landforms are evidence of the push of glaciers and the flow of water over the course of thousands of years. Glaciers also left bolder fields, till, and moraines

as evidence of their northern recession across what is now New York State.

- **Cultural sites/features.** The study area includes hundreds of individual National Register of Historic Places listings and historic districts. These sites, buildings, and structures primarily document the colonial settlement pattern of central New York; transportation revolutions surrounding the construction of canals, railroads, and roadways; the establishment of farm and gorge communities; and the growth of small-town commercial and residential districts. Historic properties stand as reminders of the events, individuals, and movements that defined the Finger Lakes and influenced the nation. Numerous properties associated with the Underground Railroad are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and/or included in the NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. College

campuses illustrate the growing importance of educational institutions in the region, act as reminders of successful business owner’s philanthropic interests, track the democratization of higher education and expansion of enrollment, and showcase local building materials. Amish and Mennonite communities pay homage to traditional agricultural practices and community building.

- **Agricultural lands and structures.** Individual farms and homesteads across the 14-county study area are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but property types and land use associated with agriculture in general are found throughout the Finger Lakes. The Finger Lakes are home to over 120 wineries showcasing grape varieties specifically developed for the mineral-rich soils and microclimate of the area. The rolling hills and terraces surrounding the lakes are punctuated with small-scale family

Farm in Ontario County



farms, some of which have been owned and operated by the same family for over a century. Farm stands and markets are found in commercial downtowns and along scenic roadsides. Homesteads, barns, mills, and agricultural outbuildings represent the rich agricultural traditions of the region as well as a current way of life.

Please refer to appendix B for a partial inventory of study area resources. Resources included in the partial inventory were identified by the NPS study team and/or suggested during the public outreach and comment period and evaluated as part of this study and found to support the nationally important story and theme represented by the Finger Lakes study area. The study team analyzed the resource inventory to identify resources directly associated with the study's significance and its interpretive themes and then considered documentation that conveyed the resources' condition, association with the nationally distinctive landscape of the Finger Lakes, and the integrity of the landscape.

CONCLUSION

Given the number of resources within the Finger Lakes study area and the physical nature of the nationally distinctive landscape, the study team finds that there are enough natural, cultural, and historic resources to support the efficient management of such resources as a national heritage area. Existing NPS programs, including national historic landmarks, the National Register of Historic Places, national natural landmarks, Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, and the existing Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, recognize resources that retain integrity and support the distinctive Finger Lakes landscape. New York State heritage areas, historic sites, parks and marinas, forests, scenic byways, and trails highlight resources that convey the unique natural and cultural history of the region. Local preservation and conservation efforts have bolstered the integrity of the broad cultural landscape and help create the setting and feeling that is distinctly the Finger Lakes.

Chapter 5

Criteria for Evaluating a Potential National Heritage Area





Photo, Front and Back

View of Keuka Lake Outlet from downtown Penn Yan, New York.



Chapter 5: Criteria for Evaluating a Potential National Heritage Area

In the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*, the National Park Service lists 10 criteria to be used in the evaluation of potential candidates for national heritage area designation. These criteria have been used to inform congressional authorizing committees when considering legislation that has been introduced to designate a national heritage area. For the purposes of this feasibility study, the criteria are the evaluation standards to which a study area should be held when determining whether or not the study area should be presented by the Secretary of the Interior to Congress as a potential national heritage area. Eligible study areas are expected to meet all 10 criteria to be considered for designation. The legislation directing this study (PL 116-9, Sec. 6003, Finger Lakes [2019]) also included seven requirements (criteria A–G) to be addressed through the feasibility study. As illustrated in table 2 (chapter 1), these criteria closely align with the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*; therefore, the following analysis is organized by the NPS program guidelines.

CRITERION 1

An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion A.

The Finger Lakes region in central New York State is physically defined by its freshwater resources, remnants of the last Ice Age’s glacial landscape. The deep, narrow lakes that reach across the state are responsible for a microclimate that contributes to the area’s agricultural richness. The waterways and features formed by glacial movement created inland Haudenosaunee trade routes that predate the American nation. These well-worn routes facilitated trade between colonial empires, missionaries, and Native

nations and were eventually incorporated into established overland trail and the New York State canal system. Developed trade routes and the additional water route access created by the Erie Canal drew far-flung communities together and allowed trade to expand over varied topography and landscapes.

Sitting on the physical and cultural borderland between Haudenosaunee Nations, colonial powers, and eventually the 18th-century American “frontier,” central New York became the site of the earliest “boom towns,” the location of one of the first major transportation construction projects, and the center of uniquely American religious and social movements.

The series of long lakes and winding tributaries that cross the glacial moraine between Lake Ontario and the Allegheny Plateau on the New York–Pennsylvania border also physically punctuate the landscape, creating pockets of communities and small towns seemingly close in distance but surprisingly isolated.

Many of the natural and scenic resources that have come to represent the Finger Lakes region—the lakes, gorges, waterfalls, and waterways surrounded by rolling agricultural land and small villages—are generally managed for public enjoyment and accessibility. The resource inventory highlights the range of historic, cultural, and natural resources in the study area connected to the Finger Lakes geography and identity. Together, these resources create a distinctive landscape that conveys the study area’s physical, historic, and cultural connections to the collection of lakes that give the region its name.

As shown in chapter 3 and appendix B, there are seemingly countless sites, municipalities, and organizations within the Finger Lakes region that could partner to create additional opportunities for conservation, interpretation, and recognition of the varied resources and communities that define the Finger Lakes. The landscape, which is uniquely connected by canals yet distinctly separated by bodies of water, has given rise to communities, traditions, agricultural practices, and share ethos of conservation and social activism that is still seen today (criterion 2).

The 1850s Denton House (aka Parrot Hall) fostered agricultural innovation as part of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Local and state historic preservationists are actively engaged in the building’s restoration and adaptive reuse.



Establishing a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes region would provide additional partnership opportunities to existing tourism and recreational sites, history organizations, educational institutions, and agricultural groups, as well as provide opportunities for Native nations now living across the United States and Canada to share their lasting influence on the study area and continuing connection to the area. The natural, cultural, and historic resources represent an assemblage that could form a viable national heritage area that could support efficient management of the sites through collaboration among active partners. **Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 1 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and legislation criterion A are met.**

CRITERION 2

The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion B.

The valued traditions that unite the Finger Lakes region are agricultural practices and location-specific foodways. Haudenosaunee and Lenape agricultural techniques embraced the fertile soil and microclimates of the glacial lakes and provided sustenance through the Three Sisters of corn, beans, and squash—vegetables that thrive together and provide many complementary and necessary nutrients. Old Order communities, organic farms, and small-scale family farms continue agricultural practices while incorporating new research and techniques advocated by Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva

and agricultural extension offices across the region. Farm-to-table dining highlights the wealth of local agricultural products from the orchards, fields, and dairies that lay between the lakes. Wineries that created renowned champagne during the 1800s now produce red and white wines that attract visitors from around the world; currently, the region has more than 110 wineries. Other craft beverages, from spirits distilled locally to beers brewed with locally grown hops that capture local flavors have also emerged from the region and appear in local restaurants.

More than 50 Finger Lakes farmers markets regularly connect locals and visitors alike to the growers and producers of the region. Ithaca's Moosewood Restaurant, founded in 1973, was one of the first restaurants to focus on vegetarian American cuisine and was honored as a James Beard Foundation "American Classic" Award winner in 2000. The Moosewood Collective, a group of 19 of the restaurant's owners, has produced 13 vegetarian cookbooks, and Mollie Katzen, one of Moosewood's cofounders, has authored 12 additional cookbooks, including the *Moosewood Cookbook*. First published in 1973 and one of the first to focus on vegetarian and vegan cooking, *Moosewood Cookbook* is one of the top 10 bestselling cookbooks of all time. The Moosewood collection of early menus, cookbook drafts, and other business ephemera can now be found in Cornell University's Library holdings.

Local specialties and dishes incorporate the area's quality produce. Salt potatoes are a regional specialty of Syracuse made by boiling small potatoes in salty brine. First made by Syracuse's salt miners as a filling lunch, the dish continues to be a staple at the New York State Fair. Naples grape pie—a

Family-owned Seneca Farms restaurant with red-striped awning offering ice cream, fried chicken, and other food in Penn Yan, New York



dessert made with pastry crust and a Concord grape filling—has become associated with Ontario County and Canandaigua Lake and is considered a regional treat. Cornell barbecue chicken was created by Dr. Robert Baker, an animal sciences professor at the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (Cornell). Dr. Baker marinated and basted whole chickens in a sauce somewhat similar to mayonnaise to create juicy and flavorful grilled chicken. This method used smaller chickens so local farms could sell more birds faster and make them more affordable. Rochester is known for its “garbage plate,” a layered dish made with a combination of macaroni salad, home fries, and/or French fries topped with meat, dressing, and hot sauce. Created by Greek diner owner Alexander Tahou and further popularized by his son Nick Tahou, the specialty includes everything originally featured on the menu of Tahou’s “Hots and Potatoes,” and is considered a late-night snack for many Rochester college students. The “spiedie” is

Main Street in Penn Yan, New York



local to the Southern Tier and more broadly through southern and central New York State. The marinated meat sandwich is derived from a regional dish from Abruzzo, Italy, that immigrants brought to New York in the 1920s.

Many of the small towns, villages, and communities that line the Finger Lakes celebrate local agricultural traditions through annual festivals. Phelps (Ontario County) was once one of the largest sauerkraut producers in the world and still holds an annual Sauerkraut Festival. Cortland is home to the June Dairy Parade and Dairy Month. The Finger Lakes region hosts apple festivals, maple festivals, food and wine festivals, cheese festivals, and the annual international rutabaga curl—a unique competition that marks the last outdoor Ithaca farmers market of the year. What started by vegetable vendors as an informal gesture marking the end of the market season, the rutabaga curl mimics the sport of curling and has evolved into an Ithaca tradition, complete with judges, official rules, and three classes of competition.

Equal Rights Heritage Center, Auburn, New York



Conservation has long been a shared ethic associated with the Finger Lakes. Early environmentalists recognized the importance of state parks and forests both for enjoyment and protection of natural resources. The same desire that fueled the creation and expansion of the New York State park system in the early 20th century led to the establishment of the Finger Lakes Land Trust in 1989. The nation's first fishery was established in Caledonia (Livingston County) in 1864, and it still rears a considerable number of brown trout used in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation fish stock program. Protecting the Finger Lakes' water quality motivated the City of Rochester to start purchasing land around Hemlock Lake—the source of municipal water—as early as 1895. Protecting the water quality is also what drove the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Regional Conservation Priorities and was supported by the department's Finger Lakes watershed program, a partnership that was formed in 2016.

Recreation continues to define the Finger Lakes as well. From the food-based harvest festivals to wine tours, special vintage releases, and food-and-wine pairings, the agricultural bounty of the area is well known and celebrated by locals and visiting foodies and wine enthusiasts. Special events and

Mural on the side of a building in Watkins Glen depicting its racing history. Courtesy of Watkins Glen Chamber of Commerce.



competitions, including Watkins Glen’s racing event, boat races, fishing tournaments and derbies, and flying and soaring events that honor Glen Curtiss’s innovations, celebrate the unique physical landscape and natural resources of central New York that allowed these activities to take root and continue to grow national and international recognition. New York State and the Native nations connected to the area continue to dominate national and international lacrosse tournaments as the sport gains popularity around the globe. The glacial landscape that drew 19th-century city dwellers away from New York State and Rochester now attracts hikers, bikers, skiers, and sightseers from all over the world.

The legacy of social activism and progressive thinking is alive and well in the study area. Historic sites tell the stories of abolitionists, suffragists, religious radicals and freethinkers, and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Nineteenth-century abolitionists, antislavery

The First Wave Statue Exhibit, by Lloyd Lillie, at Women’s Rights National Historical Park



advocates, and Underground Railroad supporters from the Finger Lakes inspired the 1960s civil rights activists combatting systemic racism in Syracuse to found the Congress of Racial Equality. Local environmental activists work tirelessly to support existing conservation efforts and fight against sources of water pollution, two causes that have long been active in the Finger Lakes region. Ithaca has become a hub for international refugees looking for a safe community to heal and build new lives. In 1975, Vietnam War refugees from Vietnam Cambodia and Laos began settling in the small, central New York State community, and the trend continued throughout the Cold War. In 1991, Ithaca was listed alongside the much larger communities of New York City and San Francisco as a “cluster site” for Tibetan refugees. Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, just one of the numerous local aid organizations, was founded in 2015 and has recently helped Syrian and Afghani refugees.

Industrial innovation continues in all corners of the study area. Eastman Kodak is still headquartered in Rochester and represents over a century of scientific innovation in photography, imaging, medical equipment, and computer hardware. Corning Incorporated continues to make specialty glass, ceramics, and technologies. Other major companies historically connected to the Finger Lakes may no longer be based in the study area, but they continue to lead the world in eye health products (Bausch and Lomb), personal computing and document technology (Xerox), and home appliances and heating systems (Carrier).

The Finger Lakes region has embraced the arts through live performances, art spaces, galleries, special events, museums and a thriving scene of local artists and seasonal

theater companies. Cities around the Finger Lakes region have locally and/or regionally significant performing arts companies and national register-listed historic theaters. The study area’s universities and colleges have high-tech performing arts spaces and attract top talent to their undergraduate programs and performances. Many organizations and nonprofits reach beyond professional artists and performers to encourage residents to directly engage in the arts and creative processes. Museums within the study area—including the Strong Museum of Play, George Eastman Museum, Everson Museum of Art, and Corning Museum of Glass—are internationally known tourist attractions that house significant collections and offer world-renowned educational experiences.

The connection between the physical landscape created by Ice Age glacial movements; the agricultural traditions and practices that developed in the Finger Lakes

region; the continued celebration of local foodways through community festivals, farmers markets, farm-to-table cuisine, and regional recipes; the built environment celebrating industrial accomplishments and social movements; the recreational opportunities provided by the scenic natural and geological resources; and the continued importance of social activism, industrial innovation, and conservation showcase the culture that has come to define the Finger Lakes. **The study team concludes that criterion 2 of the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines and legislation criterion B are met.**

CRITERION 3

The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion C.

National heritage areas are a vehicle for locally initiated protection and interpretation of natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. To meet criterion 3 of the NHA guideline, a study area must have potential to increase the level and quality of open space and/or heritage education resources.

The Finger Lakes study area has a strong conservation ethic, as evident through the long history of conservation that continues today through New York State park system, the Finger Lakes National Forest, the Finger Lakes Land Trust, and acres of protected lands within the 14 counties. The Finger Lakes Land Trust, in consultation with 40 local organizations, identified 10 priority conservation strategies to promote

People sitting on Homer Village Green. Courtesy of Homer Recreation Department.



agriculture, tourism, and health of the region. The Finger Lakes Land Trust’s three calls to action directly speak to some of the region’s notable natural resources and landscape: “Protect our lakes, streams, and drinking water,” “save farms, wineries, and rural character,” and “keep nature wild and enhance public access.”²⁰⁹

Natural and scenic resources have been valued by locals and visitors alike for their recreational and economic potential and are at the heart of heritage tourism efforts, going back to the creation of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA, the alliance) in 1919. Outdoor recreation has proven popular, with recreational boating; hiking at state parks; fishing tournaments; and scenic tours of the area by boat, car, plane, glider, or foot continuing to be as popular today as they were in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Late 20th-century efforts to improve water

quality, wildlife habitat, and natural processes have created the next generation of resource stewards that can continue to be involved in regional conservation efforts.

The Finger Lakes region includes seven designated national natural landmarks (NNL) that celebrate the area’s glacial past and the resulting landscape. While NNL designation does not require specific management by site owners, their willingness to participate in the NNL program indicates their voluntary commitment to conserving the designated site’s resources. The formal designation creates a partnership between the National Park Service and NNL sites that helps raise awareness for the notable resources and encourages site owners’ conservation efforts. National Park Service support through the program is an additional tool that helps local NNL site owners and managers to conserve the natural and scenic features associated with the study area.

209 Finger Lakes Land Trust, “Lakes, Farms, & Forest Forever,” <https://www.flit.org/TOP10/>.

East Shore Park on the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail



Small family farms, organic farms, and Old Order communities ensure that the Finger Lakes’ agricultural landscape continues to define the look and atmosphere of the region. American Farmland Trust’s “Farms Under Threat: The State of the States”—a first-of-its-kind assessment of the nation’s agricultural land, threats of development, and state policies—reports that 11 million acres of farmland and rangeland were converted to urban or residential land use between 2001 and 2016.²¹⁰ In the Northeast, the rate of farmland conversion to low-density residential development is especially high in the state of New York. More than 2.6 million acres—almost 8,000 individual farms—in the study area are part of designated New York State agricultural districts that have “right-to-farm” laws that protect farmers.

210 American Farmland Trust, “Farms Under Threat: The State of the States,” May 13, 2020, <https://farmlandinfo.org/publications/farms-under-threat-the-state-of-the-states/>.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust has used the New York State Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program to protect hundreds of acres of farmland under agricultural conservation easements. As of 2020, Cayuga County’s Farmland Protection Program helped purchase development rights to over 8,500 acres of active farmland on 16 farms in the towns of Aurelius, Brutus, Cato, Fleming, Ira, Scipio, and Springport. Recognition of the Finger Lakes region’s agricultural importance could support farmland conservation efforts and preserve the rural landscape associated with this part of the country.

The blend of rural scenes, historic canal villages, and lake views together represent the Finger Lakes. Small towns nestled between the lakes retain their historic main streets, commercial cores, and/or water-powered mills. An even greater potential exists to connect stories of small towns throughout regions and show how similar natural

U-pick flower farm outside Penn Yann, New York



Downtown Penn Yann



resources and landscapes can produce such diverse and individual communities. Additional conservation efforts, preservation networks, and support for small businesses and farmers could help preserve the unique blend of historic, natural, cultural, and scenic features found in the Finger Lakes. **Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 3 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Guidelines* and legislation criterion C are met.**

CRITERION 4

The area provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.

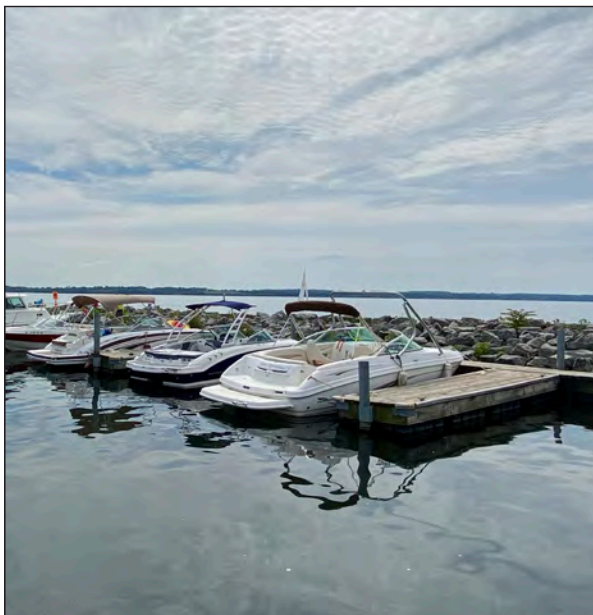
This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion also aligns with legislation criterion C.

The Finger Lakes region established itself as a recreational destination in the 19th century, marketing itself to New Yorkers looking to

shake off the pressures of city living and enjoy the gorges, waterfalls, and rural escape the region offered. This reputation was supported by the creation of state parks, public boat ramps and marinas, greenways, trails, scenic byways, driving tours, and other recreational facilities, spaces, and opportunities that developed throughout the 20th century.

Educational opportunities abound in the region’s numerous public-facing programs of the area’s college and universities, museums, art centers, historic preservation organizations, and tourism-related activities such as on-farm tours. The region has a tradition of agricultural research and innovation to produce higher quality and more bountiful harvests and bridge the divide between area farmers and research facilities at central New York colleges and universities. World-class museums highlight the industrial innovations of the area, showcase the importance of arts and culture in the lives

Waterfront docks in Geneva, New York



Finger Lakes Boating Museum, located in the historic Taylor Wine Company building



of Finger Lakes visitors and residents, and interpret historic events and practices. Driving tours and state heritage areas highlight women’s history sites, community development, the growth and success of local wineries, religious movements, and past freethinkers. National park units and programs recognize architectural wonders, agricultural innovations, and the places where individuals sought to expand and enjoy personal freedoms.

Agritourism connects recreation, entertainment, and education and allows visitors to better understand how produce and dairy products make it from the farm to consumers. Finger Lakes Farm Country, a regional agritourism program that promotes local farms in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Yates Counties, focuses on the recreational and educational opportunities provided by agricultural producers in the southern Finger Lakes. Cornell Cooperative Extension and wineries have also supported

this push towards embracing the agricultural past of the region through farm experiences, farm-to-table dining, and tourism trails centered on different products of the Finger Lakes.

Designating a Finger Lakes national heritage area would allow existing organizations and nonprofits to build new networks, create additional opportunities for collaboration, and provide an organized and accessible way to share recreational and educational opportunities with residents and members of the public. **The study team concludes that criterion 4 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion C of the legislation are met.**

Mural in Hammondsport, featuring aviation innovator Glenn Curtiss



CRITERION 5

Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion D.

The resources described in chapter 3 and appendix B support the themes associated with the Finger Lakes. The numerous bodies of water that define and provide connections within the region and with the rest of New York State and America are reminders of the Finger Lakes' glacial past and transportation routes used since the first humans inhabited the area. Finger Lakes National Forest, the New York State forests in the study area, and other conservation areas protect natural resources that flourished in the mineral-rich soil and unique microclimates that surround surprisingly deep lakes and gorges. These geologic features and natural landforms contribute to the beauty of the area, which in turn led to burgeoning conservation efforts as well as tourism and outdoor recreation. Historic sites associated with agriculture, Haudenosaunee culture, women's suffrage, abolition, and the area's inventors and industry tell the story of the people of the region and their dedication to social movements and ideas that became part of the bedrock of American identity.

Chapter 3's resource analysis focuses on publicly managed land/sites and resources that have previously been identified as locally, regionally, or nationally significant as part of previous survey or designation efforts. To be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a historic property must exhibit integrity or the ability to convey

Downtown Geneva



the character or qualities that contribute to its significance. The 14-county study area includes over 1,000 national register-listed properties, all of which were determined to retain the architectural features, connections, or overarching “feeling” that contribute to their significance. The bar is raised even higher for the select places designated as national historic landmarks—properties that are determined to be nationally significant and have a high degree of integrity; seven national historic landmarks are found in the Finger Lakes. State historic sites, heritage areas, and scenic byways call attention to the importance of significant places and distinctive scenery while also helping to strengthen the connection to traditional practices, natural beauty, and past events. The Finger Lakes Land Trust; New York State

parks, forests, and wildlife management areas; the Finger Lakes National Forest; and other national and regional conservation areas were established to protect the plants, wildlife, geology, and landscape features that make the area distinct and to preserve natural resources and processes. National natural landmark designation encourages the preservation of sites with natural resources considered outstanding in terms of rarity or integrity. The resource analysis provided in this study shows that there is a wealth of natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources that retain a degree of integrity, are associated with the Finger Lakes themes, and could support interpretation related to the area's national importance.

Many of the publicly owned resources in the study area already offer visitor opportunities that directly link to the area's distinctive landscape. Existing walking and driving tours, scenic byways, and itineraries support interpretation and visitor experiences of the distinctive cultural landscape and scenic viewshed. While criterion 5 focuses on resources that could support interpretation, it is not meant to discourage the inclusion of privately owned or sites that are not currently publicly accessible. Some resources that support the themes identified in the Finger Lakes are not currently open to the public and include resources that may not be able to support visitation given their condition, archeological sites whose location needs to remain private, research sites, and other locations that support the conservation, preservation, and education goals of a national heritage area. Even excluding these sites, the area has enough resources to support interpretation and public appreciation of the national story. **Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 5**

of the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines and legislation criterion D are met.

CRITERION 6

Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area involved in planning have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.

This NPS National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines criterion aligns with legislation criterion E.

In requesting a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating a Finger Lakes national heritage area, Congress required that a proposed local coordinating entity, also referred to as a management entity, develop a conceptual financial plan. The plan should identify the role and funding sources of the proposed coordinating entity, including the federal government, in the management of the proposed heritage area. During the public comment period, many residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and local governments supported the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the coordinating entity and expressed their willingness to continue their partnerships with the organization to support the national heritage area. As the proposed coordinating entity for the potential national heritage area, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance developed a five-year conceptual financial plan based upon anticipated expenses, expected income, and current economic conditions. The plan can be viewed in table 9 (conceptual income expectations), table 10 (sources for

required federal funds matching), and table 11 (anticipated expenses).

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance was founded in 1919, making it one of the longest-standing destination marketing organizations of its kind in the United States. With over a century of experience managing and promoting the resources within the Finger Lakes region, the alliance has developed partnerships, built relationships, and garnered community support that allows for diverse fundraising opportunities across its expanded network. As the coordinating entity and fiduciary agent for the Finger Lakes national heritage area, the alliance would seek to match anticipated federal funds from a combination of state grants, corporate donations, cash donations, volunteer and in-kind contributions, and subgrantee matching requirements (table 10). Reflecting recent trends in NHA funding, the alliance anticipates federal funding of \$150,000 annually for the first three years until a heritage area management plan is approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Following the plan completion, the alliance anticipates \$400,000 annually for years 4 and 5 for management plan implementation (table 9).

Under administration and operations, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance estimates that the first three years of federal funding would be used to hire a full-time executive director, who would be primarily tasked with preparing the documents for the national heritage area, including the management plan. In addition, the alliance anticipates hiring three part-time staff to support the executive director in years 4 and 5. Alliance staff would assist with plan development and execution, estimating 15% to 20% of staff time spent in years 1 through 3, and decreasing to 5% to 10% of staff time in years 4 and 5. Once

the guidance and management documents have been prepared, the alliance would work further with businesses and organizations to update their marketing materials to include NHA promotion and information. In addition to the management plan and staffing expenses, administration and operation expenses include the cost and maintenance of facilities, utilities, rental space, and office equipment and supplies.

Upon completion of the Finger Lakes national heritage area management plan, likely completed with a consultant through a contract, the alliance anticipates developing a subgranting program directed at projects supporting the programs and mission described in the plan and the authorizing legislation for the national heritage area. A total of \$70,000 would be subgranted in year 4, and the program would expand in year 5 to an estimated \$260,000. Beginning in year 1, the coordinating entity would expand its ongoing communication and outreach efforts with media, stakeholders, and local businesses. Combined, these public relations efforts are estimated to cost over \$100,000 annually for the first 5 years. Additional marketing efforts include upgrades to the website and ongoing maintenance and development of materials to secure partners.

Lastly, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance anticipates some expenses associated with establishing a 501(c)(3) under the alliance to expand funding options for the national heritage area. These estimated legal fees, along with audit and filing fees, are presented in table 11 with other perceived expenses.

Based on the information requested by and provided to the NPS study team, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's current status and proposed coordinating entity

financial structure appear to be sound and in compliance with the study’s criteria. The existing organization has the capacity to manage the financial responsibilities associated with NHA activities and the experience necessary to serve as the management entity. During the NHA feasibility study’s public outreach activities and formal comment period, study area residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments voiced support the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance

and expressed interest in partnering with the alliance if it is named the coordinating entity of a future national heritage area. Letters received from local organizations are included in appendix D. In response to the financial plan shared by the alliance and support for the organization expressed by local residents, businesses, and organizations, **the study team concludes that criterion 6 of the *National Heritage Areas Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion E of the legislation are met.**

Table 9. Conceptual Income Expectations, as Provided by the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (2021)

Funding Source	Anticipated Amount				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
NHA Federal Funding	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
New York State Consolidated Funding Application – Part of Match Fund	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
Corporate Financial Support	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$95,000	\$105,000	\$110,000
Cash Donations	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total Funding	\$352,000	\$362,000	\$372,000	\$700,000	\$705,000

Table 10. Proposed Federal Funding Matching Requirement Plan, as Provided by the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (2021)

Federal Funding Match Source	Anticipated Amount				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Cash/In-Kind Match provided by Subgrantee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$260,000
Value of In-Kind/Volunteer Time	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
New York State Consolidated Funding Application – Part of Match Fund	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$170,000	\$170,000
Corporate Financial Support	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$95,000	\$105,000	\$110,000
Cash Donations	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total Match Value	\$225,000	\$235,000	\$245,000	\$400,000	\$595,000

Table 11. Conceptual Expense Plan, as Provided by the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (2021)

Expense	Anticipated Amount				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Executive Director Salary	\$75,000	\$80,000	\$85,000	\$90,000	\$95,000
Administrative Assistant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
Marketing Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$55,000
Finance Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$55,000
Management, Interpretive and Financial Plan	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0	\$0
Office Space	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$15,000	\$16,000
Office Equipment and Supplies	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
FLTA Staff Services	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Subgrants	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$260,000
Administration and Operation (Subtotal)	\$212,000	\$238,000	\$244,000	\$290,000	\$531,000
Signage	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$230,000	\$0
Communication and Outreach (Media)	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Business Marketing	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$60,000

Expense	Anticipated Amount				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Website Development and Maintenance	\$30,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$50,000	\$15,000
Sponsorship Development	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$50,000
Legal Fees to Form a 501(c)(3)	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$2,000
Audit/Filing Fees	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
Resource Development and Marketing (Subtotal)	\$140,000	\$124,000	\$128,000	\$410,000	\$174,000
Total Expenses	\$352,000	\$362,000	\$372,000	\$700,000	\$705,000

CRITERION 7

The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criteria E and F.

Community support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is representative of their many years of successfully collaborating with partners across the 14-county study area to promote tourism and economic growth in the Finger Lakes region. During the study period, 24 local units of government passed resolutions of support for the designation of a national heritage area, indicated support for the alliance as a management entity, and indicated willingness to commit to working in partnership to develop the national heritage area. Stakeholder support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is a testament to their successful leadership in developing, coordinating, and marketing for the 14-county study area. The alliance consists

of staff members and board members from at least 10 counties within the study area, including two at-large representatives and ex officio board members.

Throughout the study process, there was an overwhelming amount of support for the designation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes. Even more so, support was expressed for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to serve as the local coordinating entity for the national heritage area. This support came from public comment, various local towns/cities/villages, municipal organizations, counties, planning and development boards, and organizations and associations (appendix E). Please refer to appendix D for an assemblage of letters of support for and commitment to assist with the establishment of the proposed national heritage area. Additionally, the other national heritage area within the study area—Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor—provided comments to strengthen the feasibility study recommendations, which have been incorporated into this document and supported this study.

Downtown Penn Yan



During the initial data collection period of the study, at the request of the NPS study team, representatives from the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance assisted with the coordination of 14 county-based focus group meetings in May 2020, including identifying a unique group of subject matter experts for each of the meetings. The range of expertise reflected in these groups demonstrated the organizational skill of the alliance and their comprehension of the management needs of a national heritage area, but also the commitment to the development of a national heritage area among the wide range of experts and organizations who agreed to participate.

The NPS study team contacted the 13 federally recognized tribal groups during the study development and NHA criteria evaluation. If a Finger Lakes national heritage area is established, the sovereign governments of the Native nations that are traditionally connected to the area's resources—which are now located across the United States

and Canada—will be recommended as future partners in developing, interpreting, supporting, and managing the heritage area and its resources.

Based on the successful work of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, their willingness to work with existing and future partners, and their level of engagement in the feasibility study, **the study team concludes that criterion 7 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criteria E and F of the legislation are met.** Additional partnerships between the management entity named/created in future NHA legislation; units of federal and tribal governments; and other public, private, and nonprofit entities are expected, necessary, and crucial to the establishment and development of any national heritage area in the Finger Lakes study area.

Finger Lakes Welcome Center in Geneva



CRITERION 8

The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criteria E and F.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance works extensively with partners to enhance the economic growth of the Finger Lakes region through marketing and tourism promotion. The alliance is considered one of the oldest regional destination marketing organizations in the country and is recognized for its economic efforts with federal and state government resolutions. The alliance seeks to “lead economic growth and development through exemplary promotion of the Finger Lakes region as a world-class tourism destination.”²¹¹ In 2019,

211 [Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance 100th Anniversary | Finger Lakes Region Official Guide](https://www.fingerlakes.org/finger-lakes-tourism-alliance-100th-anniversary), <https://www.fingerlakes.org/finger-lakes-tourism-alliance-100th-anniversary>.

the alliance conducted a comprehensive regional travel and tourism study²¹² to better understand the demographics of visitors to the region, primary attractions, and economic contributions of these visitors.

Results from the study indicate that over five million people visited the Finger Lakes region in 2018, with leisure being the primary reason for visitation and business purposes accounting for approximately 700,000 people to the area. Of the 4.86 million people who traveled for leisure, the alliance estimated these visitors had added \$2.4 billion to the regional economy. The primary categories in which visitors spent money was lodging (25%) and dining (27%), followed by shopping at wineries (16%), other shopping (13%), transportation/fuel (10%), and attractions (8%). Survey results indicated that visiting a state park was the most common activity,

212 Comprehensive Regional Travel and Tourism Study (fingerlakes.org), https://www.fingerlakes.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/FLTA%20Comprehensive%20Visitor%20Study%20Report_0.pdf.

followed by wineries and visiting historic sites or museums. These popular destinations would contribute to a national heritage area, should it be created. Further promotion and development of these attractions and other associated sites through outreach and communication efforts would support enhanced economic activity in the area.

Working with partners across the study area, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has conducted various programs and developed distribution materials to promote tourism that is consistent with economic activities in the area. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's 2019 Finger Lakes report²¹³ highlights some of the key programs the alliance participated in to drive economic activities:

- developed Finger Lakes travel guides, maps, and mini-guides that were distributed at Thruway Information Centers
- created and maintained a website for tourism in the Finger Lakes region, which includes trip planning information and various recreational guides
- joined with 55 new businesses as partners
- served as a partner in implementing and promoting tourism-related projects and events throughout the study area

The alliance would continue its contributions to the economic growth of the region in partnership with the proposed coordinating entity for the national heritage area. Additional contributions to economic

development may include involvement in agricultural or conservation programs and partnerships.

Based on the information outlined above, the designation of the Finger Lakes as a national heritage area would continue to promote tourism and provide economic benefits to the local communities. These contributions would be consistent with ongoing economic activities in the study area. **Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 8 of the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines and criteria E and F of the legislation are met.**

CRITERION 9

A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion G.

Boundaries of national heritage areas can vary in size and shape due to being informed by the assemblage of resources, as well as public and stakeholder support. As stated in the 2015 economic impact study by Tripp Umbach of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor:

The size and shape of an NHA also plays a key role in defining its personality. Local listed or focused sites are concentrated.

While this leads to partnerships with more defined, common goals, it can place limitations on available resources. Sites that span geographic areas (multiple counties) have the unique challenge of balancing where and how their resources are allocated.²¹⁴

213 Annual Report 2019 (fingerlakes.org), https://www.fingerlakes.org/sites/default/files/Research%20Center/Year%20in%20Review/Annual%20Report%202019_Final.pdf.

214 Tripp Umbach, "Economic Impact of National Heritage Areas," 6.

The legislation for the Finger Lakes national heritage area feasibility study specifically named 14 central New York State counties, while also directing the study team to consider any other areas of the state that have similar heritage aspects or are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, the “study area.”

The broad Finger Lakes region is informally defined as the area bordered by Interstate 90, Interstate 390, New York State Route 415, and Interstate 81, an area that roughly includes the 14 counties named in the study legislation. During the 90-day public comment phase, the vast majority of written public comments supported the 14-county study area as an appropriate boundary for a Finger Lakes national heritage area. In addition to written comments, the study team asked the public to participate in an interactive mapping tool to identify the area they personally identify as comprising the “Finger Lakes.”

Of the 56 respondents, approximately 22 (39%) indicated a direct agreement with the 14-county study area boundary. However, many respondents identified the Finger Lakes area as a smaller area that should focus more on the lakes that give the region its name, rather than include the entirety of the surrounding counties. The boundary proposed by respondents who used the interactive mapping tool differs slightly from the 14 counties named in the study legislation. Instead of using political boundaries, the respondents’ conceptual boundary is bordered by major roadways and does not include the regional hubs of Rochester, Syracuse, or Corning. However, the sample size of respondents using the interactive map was relatively small (56 people), and, as mentioned above, 39% of them also supported the 14-county designation.

Other conceptual boundary suggestions received through the project website included using the Empire State Development 9-county Finger Lake region (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates) to define the study area, including Genesee County, due to its proximity to the study area, and expanding the conceptual NHA boundary from Albany in the east to Buffalo in the west. This last suggestion would completely overlap with the existing Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

The “Finger Lakes Region” has previously been defined through several acts of law. Laws of New York 1967, Chapter 619 “Finger Lakes Region” states:

The territory comprising the counties of Monroe, Wayne, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung, Tompkins, Tioga, and Cortland are hereby designated and shall hereafter be known as the “Finger Lakes Region” and then term “Finger Lakes Region” used in any sign, notice or otherwise shall mean and include the area contained within such counties.

This area and definition were referenced by the Finger Lakes Wine Growers Association in its 1980 petition to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms requesting that “Finger Lakes” be designated an official viticultural appellation. The petition goes on to state that the political boundaries of the 14 counties named in the New York State legislation and the NHA feasibility study legislation “closely approximate an outline of the area based on prominent geological features, namely: the Southern shore of Lake Ontario at the

North, the Northern course of the Genesee River/Gorge beginning at Letchworth State Park at the West, the Eastern courses of the Canisteo, Chemung, and Susquehanna Rivers at the South, and the North-South valley course of US Route 81 and the Tioughnioga River at the East.” Boundaries of the Finger Lakes American Viticultural Area, designated in 1982, closely follow the geographic boundaries described in the petition (27 CFR S. 9.34 – Finger Lakes). While the American Viticultural Area does not follow county lines, the Finger Lakes American Viticultural Area includes Rochester, portions of the Erie Canal, and the communities of Ithaca, Danville, Geneseo, and Avon.

Considering the continued use of “Finger Lakes Region” to describe the area named in the New York State legislation and the NHA feasibility study legislation, a conceptual NHA boundary that follows the political boundaries of the 14 counties listed in the study legislation appears feasible. This conceptual boundary aligns with the geography of membership within the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, the proposed coordinating entity. Within these counties, natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources that support the overall landscape, cultural tradition of the area, and the nationally important story of the Finger Lakes are evenly distributed. The five counties within the proposed boundary that do not touch one of the Finger Lakes serve as gateway counties and share similar resources, geological landscape, and nationally important stories. Increasing the size of the potential NHA boundary beyond the 14 counties would push the area further away from the Finger Lakes, the defining feature of the region.

An official correspondence from Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (see appendix D, pages 284—286) staff questioned the significant overlap between the established national heritage corridor and the legislated study area for a potential Finger Lakes national heritage area. The Erie Canalway corridor runs across the northern portion of the Finger Lakes study area and reaches deep into Seneca, Cayuga, Yates, Schuyler, and Thompsons Counties through its inclusion of the Seneca-Cayuga Canal. Regardless of the boundaries of a potential Finger Lakes national heritage area, it would be impossible to avoid an overlap between the two entities, considering that the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor covers two of the central Finger Lakes, Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. It is rare, but not unheard of for designated national heritage area boundaries to intersect; in fact, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor overlaps with the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership through its inclusion of the Champlain Canal and Albany, and the eastern terminus of the Erie Canal is also part of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. In these instances, national heritage areas often find ways to work together and partner on large-scale initiatives and events, showing the interplay between their resources and interpretive themes to tell a richer story.

The correspondence from Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (see appendix D, pages 284—286) staff also noted that the study legislation followed political boundaries and regions previously defined by tourism and/or economic development regions when describing the study area instead of referencing geology, topography, or areas associated with interpretive themes. Monroe and Livingston Counties, on the far

western reach of the 14-county area, lie in the Genesee River Watershed, while Tioga, Chemung, and most of Steuben Counties are connected to the Susquehanna River drainage basin. While defining a conceptual NHA boundary using geographic features may provide the most accurate boundary for an area that reflects the distinctiveness of a geologic landscape, there are potential complications associated with drawing NHA boundaries to closely follow natural features. The continued shaping of those features, such as subtle changes to shorelines, could result in changing jurisdictions, municipal partners, or associated organizations. Defining how closely a potential boundary should follow natural landform is also difficult, especially if the set boundary bisects city, county, or organizational reaches. Political boundaries, such as county lines, are seen as more stable and are widely recognized by existing organizations.

Whether following government, political, geographic, or geologic lines, national heritage areas should encompass the resources that directly related and illustrate the distinctive landscape. As shown in the study area resource analysis (chapter 4) and the partial resource list (appendix B), resources found in the southern and western portions of the 14-county study area support the overarching regional landscape and potential themes examined in chapter 3.

The study team concludes that the conceptual 14-county study area boundary mentioned in the study legislation received overall support from the public and thereby meets *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion 9 and legislation criterion G.

CRITERION 10

The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

This NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* criterion aligns with legislation criterion F.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is the proposed coordinating entity of a Finger Lakes national heritage area, should one be named in future NHA legislation. The alliance is one of the longest-standing destination marketing organizations in the United States and recently celebrated its 100-year anniversary. The alliance oversees a wide range of activities, including tourism marketing, planning for the region, providing assistance to businesses and partners, seeking grants, and coordinating activities throughout the region with state and local governments, businesses, and other organizations.

Established in 1919 as the Finger Lakes Association, the organization currently operates as a 501(c)(6), with the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance serving as the association's "DBA" (doing business as). The alliance's leadership consists of 17 voting board members, with one representative from each of the 14 counties and three at-large seats. In addition, the alliance formed a nonprofit 501(c)(3) called Finger Lakes Opportunity for Tourism Growth in 2017, which focuses on educational efforts supporting sustainable tourism practices in the Finger Lakes.

The mission of the alliance is to lead tourism and economic growth and development through exemplary promotion of the Finger Lakes region as a world-class destination. The vision of the alliance is to be a recognized leader for destination marketing strategies

and resources in the Finger Lakes region. The alliance drafted the following mission for the proposed Finger Lakes national heritage area:

The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area recognizes, promotes, and celebrates the natural and cultural resources of our region and their unique contribution to our country's history. We offer a wealth of educational and recreational opportunities to explore the many facets of our nationally significant story and to inspire the appreciation and conservation of our resources and assets, to share this information in a cohesive message for all to consider and explore.

If the designation of a Finger Lakes national heritage area were to occur, the alliance board of directors would establish a steering committee that would oversee its management. The heritage area steering committee would be established under the existing alliance and would be independently responsible for heritage area activities and programs. The separation allows the alliance to continue work on marketing and tourism of the region and provide financial support to a Finger Lakes national heritage area, while the steering committee would promote heritage area activities, conservation efforts, and educational and recreational events across the national heritage area.

Upon designation of a Finger Lakes national heritage area, the alliance would seat temporary members of the steering committee, which would consist of public and private organizations and businesses that represent the heritage area's nationally important themes. The committee would

then draft a job description for an executive director position for the heritage area, canvas for candidates, and hire a qualified individual. Following the establishment of the initial steering committee and hiring of a director, the alliance (through the heritage area steering committee) and the heritage area executive director would collaborate to complete the national heritage area management plan. Through the public planning process and resulting management plan, bylaws would be developed to set seating criteria for the permanent steering committee by year 4. In addition, policies, goals, strategies, and plans would be drafted to tell the stories of the heritage area to the public. By year 4, the management plan would be complete and bylaws and permanent seating criteria would be in place for the steering committee. In out-years, the NHA steering committee could consider establishing a 501(c)(3) group to expand funding opportunities for the heritage area, but the committee would remain an arm of the alliance, which would continue to serve as the heritage area's fiduciary agent.

Beginning in year 4 following designation, the study team anticipates that the heritage area coordinating entity would be staffed with four full-time employees: an executive director, an administrative assistant, a marketing coordinator (partially funded in year 4, with full funding in year 5), a finance coordinator (partially funded in year 4, with full funding in year 5), and support from the FLTA staff (figure 4). However, through the management planning effort, the coordinating entity may identify the need to hire a conservation and/or recreation planner or other positions for the national heritage area.

Support from other FLTA staff for administrative services, marketing assistance, and financial work is expected to be near 15–18% of workload for years 1 through 4 and decrease to 5% of staff time in year 5. An office space would be rented for the heritage area staff.

Based on the information provided and interviews with the Finger Lakes Tourism

Alliance, the study team concludes that the proposed national heritage area has a local coordinating entity that is prepared to develop and implement the management plan for the area and the entity has been adequately described. **Therefore, the study team concludes that criterion 10 of the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and criterion F of the legislation are met.**

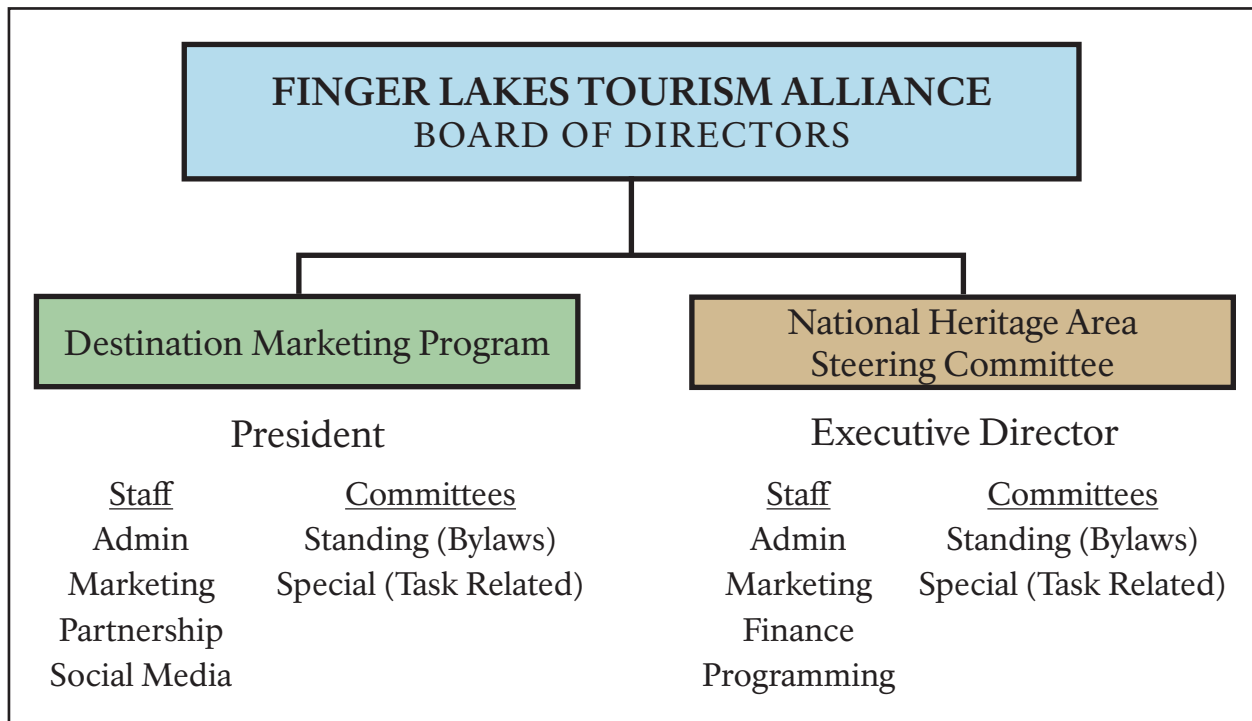


Figure 4. Organizational chart for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance and its relationship to the proposed Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Steering Committee

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Chapter 6

Conclusion





Photo, Front and Back

Artistic traditions of the Finger Lakes displayed at a local market.



Chapter 6: Conclusion

The stories of the Finger Lakes weave together the area's diverse natural and historic resources and show how the study area's geology and social history have influenced the culture of the Finger Lakes and contribute to the nation's heritage. The study team identified a nationally distinctive landscape and associated resources that contribute to the Finger Lakes' cohesive natural and cultural landscape. A significance statement and interpretive themes were developed to convey the importance of the Finger Lakes and their connections to today.

Using the study area's resources to guide the significance statement and interpretive themes, the study team identified a nationally significant landscape with scores of directly associated resources, as well as other supporting resources that help convey the study area's contribution to American heritage.

Analysis of the Finger Lakes study area history, its resources, and an evaluation of resources using NHA criteria revealed that a strategic assemblage of natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources, including

ongoing nationally important Native nations presence and influences, appear to represent a distinct story worthy of conservation, interpretation, and continued use. Therefore, the study area and its resources meet NHA criterion 1 and study legislation criterion A. The continuation of agricultural practices, foodways, and local celebrations reflect traditions associated with the Finger Lakes communities and landscape. Together, these lifeways meet NHA criterion 2 and study legislation criterion B.

Existing NPS programs, nonprofit historic sites, federal and state land management agencies, Native nations, land conservation organizations, and heritage tourism initiatives currently conserve the natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources found in the study area; a Finger Lakes national heritage area would have the potential to work with these existing partners to support ongoing preservation, conservation, and heritage tourism efforts. The study area's potential for future conservation, educational, and recreational opportunities meets NHA criteria 3 and 4 and study legislation criterion C. The majority of resources considered part

of the nationally significant landscape were found to have sufficient integrity to support interpretation to meet NHA criterion 5 and study legislation criterion D.

Interested local organizations, businesses, Native nations, and individuals provided comments and feedback throughout the study process. Formal comments were received in the form of written responses submitted through the study's NPS PEPC website and through hardcopies mailed to the study team. Some groups and individuals preferred to provide feedback and ideas through informal discussions with study team members about the resources and stories of the Finger Lakes. County-specific focus group discussions and NPS virtual presentations allowed local businesses, governments, and nonprofits to help guide development of the feasibility study. Many businesses, nonprofits, and local government entities provided formal support in the form of resolutions or letters submitted on official letterhead (appendixes C and D), which meet NHA criterion 6 and study legislation criterion E. A potential national heritage area would serve to broaden existing heritage tourism, an active sector of the current economy, and thereby meeting NHA criterion 8.

A conceptual boundary map that includes the 14 counties named within the study legislation is included and meets NHA criterion 9 and study legislation criterion G. This conceptual boundary follows county boundaries and duplicates the boundary identified in Laws of New York 1967, chapter 619.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, a well-established tourism promoter and marketing organization, was identified as a potential management entity after being interviewed by the NPS study team. An organizational chart, conceptual NHA financial plan, and additional information provided by the alliance during a potential management entity interview meet NHA criteria 7 and 10 and correspond to study legislation criterion F.

Based on the analysis presented in this feasibility study, the study team concludes that the Finger Lakes study area meets all 10 feasibility evaluation criteria established in the *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines* and all of the individual criteria laid out in John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9, Section 6003 [b][2]), which directs the National Park Service to prepare this study. These findings are supported through the documentation and analysis presented in chapter 5. The findings of this study support the current heritage tourism and outdoor recreation in the area and the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's continued dedication to economic development and promotion of the region's natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources.

Appendixes





Photo, Front and Back

The Finger Lakes Boating Museum in Hammondsport, New York.



Appendix A: Public Law 116-9, Section 6003 – John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act

SEC. 6003. FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage Area” means the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of New York.

(3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means—

(A) the counties in the State of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

(B) any other areas in the State that—

(i) have heritage aspects that are similar to the areas described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, those areas.

(b) Study.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with State and local historic preservation officers, State and local historical societies, State and local tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and governmental agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Finger Lakes National Heritage Area”.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(i) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(ii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

(iii) would be best managed—

(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(II) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(C) provides outstanding opportunities—

(i) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(ii) for recreation and education;

(D) contains resources that—

(i) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(E) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that—

(i) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area;

(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(iii) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Heritage Area;

(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(c) Report.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study under subsection (b); and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.



Appendix B: Partial Resource List

The following list of study area resources was compiled by the study team to examine the types of resources present in the Finger Lakes and if they would support the criteria outlined in Public Law 111-11 and established in the NPS *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. **This list is not intended to be comprehensive.** Many more historic properties are recorded in the National Register of Historic Places than are listed here. Many properties of the Finger Lakes remain unevaluated for historic significance and representation of thematic stories. Future research and historic evaluations may

identify other resources fitting the attributes of significance that would contribute to a national heritage area, if established. The following table includes primary resources of the Finger Lakes region that represent resources with direct association with a study area theme (for example, a historic property with intact historic fabric), as well as secondary resources in which visitors would be exposed to themes represented in the primary resources (such as a museum or educational center). In some cases, primary resources also serve a secondary function (for example, a historic property operated as a museum).

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Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse	Historic	Historic Site	Ontario	230 Sheldon Rd, Farmington, NY 14425	The 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse served as a site of Genesee Yearly Meeting of Friends and as a national crucible for major reform movements in the nineteenth century. It stood at the crossroads of activism for African American rights, women's rights, and Indigenous people's rights.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Special events are held frequently and are open to the public	Agricultural Traditions; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
1844 House	Historic	Historic Building	St. Lawrence	6885 US-11, Potsdam, NY 13676	A farmhouse built in 1844 by Ira T. French. Formerly housed a general store and community hall. It currently operates as a restaurant.	None	Yes	Restaurant	Agricultural Traditions; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
1890 House Museum	Historic	Museum	Cortland	37 Tompkins St., Cortland, NY 13045	Designed by architect Samuel Reed, the house was built for Charles Wickwire and his family. The Wickwires created a worldwide wire industry that changed rural lifestyles.	None	Yes	Open Thursday through Sunday	Agricultural Tradition; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Abbey of the Genesee	Cultural	Religious Center	Livingston	3258 River Rd, Piffard, NY 14533	The Abbey of the Genesee is a community of more than two dozen contemplative monks located near Piffard in the town of York, New York. Founded from the Abbey of Gethsemani in Bardstown, Kentucky in 1951.	Religious Center	Yes	Tours	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Alasa Farms	Historic	Historic Farm	Wayne	6450 Shaker Rd, North Rose, NY 14516	Alasa Farms, also known as the Sodus Bay Shaker Tract and Sodus Bay Phalanx, is a historic farm complex located near Alton in Wayne County, New York. Owned by Cracker Box Palace	Easement Property	Yes	By appointment: trails, tours, camps, activities, and festivals	Agricultural Traditions; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Alexander Town Hall	Historic	Historic Building	Genesee	3350 Church St, Alexander, NY 14005	The former Alexander Classical School, the Alexander Town Hall is a three-story cobblestone building erected in the 1830s.	Town Hall	Yes	N/A	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Alex Haley Pool	Recreational	Public Pool	Tompkins	408 N Albany St, Ithaca, NY 14850	A public pool		Yes	Swimming	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Allan H. Treman State Marine Park	Recreational	State Park	Tompkins	805 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850	Allan H. Treman State Marine Park is a 91-acre state park and marina.	New York State Park	Yes	Boating, fishing, hiking, walking, wildlife viewing	Glacial-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Alling Coverlet Museum	Cultural	Museum	Wayne	122 William St, Palmyra, NY 14522	The Alling Coverlet Museum features the largest collection of American hand-woven coverlets in the United States. The collection also includes a quilt room, looms, spinning wheels, and other assorted weaver's tools.	Museum	Yes	Exhibits, tours	Agricultural Traditions; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Altmar	Natural	State Forest	Oswego	Pulaski, NY 13142	The forest encompasses 926 acres of land.	New York State Forest	Yes	Open year-round; free entry; camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, wildlife	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
American Rock Salt			Livingston	5520 NY-63, Mt Morris, NY 14510	The largest operating salt mine in the United States.				Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Andersen Hill	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	78-412 Andersen Hill Rd Richford, NY 13835	Andersen Hill State Forest encompasses 554 acres of forested land. Interior access to the State Forest is provided by a 1.6-mile seasonal public forest access road.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting, trapping, fishing, primitive camping, and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
Arnot Art Museum	Educational	Art Museum	Chemung	235 Lake St, Elmira, NY 14901	Open in 1913, the municipal art museum includes European and American art. Focused on preservation of the original collection of Matthias H. Arnot.	None	Yes	Open Tuesday through Saturday	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
ArtRage Gallery	Historic	Art Gallery	Onondaga	505 Hawley Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13203	In the historic Hawley-Green neighborhood. The ArtRage mission is to exhibit progressive art that inspires resistance and promotes social awareness; supports social justice, challenges preconceptions, and encourages cultural change.		Yes	Thursday & Friday 12–6 p.m. Saturday & Sunday 12–4 p.m.	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Auburn Correction Facility	Historic	State Prison	Cayuga	135 State St, Auburn, NY 13024	Among the oldest functional prisons in the United States, this state prison holds maximum security. It was built on land of a previous Cayuga village and is the site of the first execution by the electric chair.	None	No	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Auditorium Theatre	Cultural	Theater	Monroe	885 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14605	The Auditorium Theatre is part of the former Masonic Temple of Rochester building. It is now home to the Rochester Broadway Theatre League.		Yes	Theater performances	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Awaakaba's Riverstroll	Educational	NPS Affiliate Program	Monroe	181 Royleston Rd, Rochester, NY 14609	One of several multi-layered tours developed by AKWAABA: the Heritage Associates, a nonprofit corporation of storytellers, teachers, parents, a historian, a poet, a musician, and Rochester residents. Riverstroll provides visitors with a guided tour of sites associated with freedom and the Underground Railroad.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Guided tours starting at Main Street	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Bahar Preserve and Carpenter Falls	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Cayuga	6063 Appletree Point Moravia, NY 13118	The 87-acre trust property includes 65 feet of Skaneateles lakeshore with 1.6 miles of trail. The property was acquired in segments between 1998 and 2007 through a series of purchases. In 2008, the Land Trust conveyed 36 acres to New York State creating the Carpenter Falls State Unique Area. The remaining 51 acres of land downstream toward the lake continue to be managed by the Land Trust as the Bahar Nature Preserve.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Baker School House	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	3581 Baker Schoolhouse Road Cincinnatus, NY 13040	Baker School House State Forest encompasses 1,277 acres. A section of the Finger Lakes Trail winds through the central portion of the forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, hunting, trapping, bird watching, nature observation, and informal camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Bare Hill Unique Area	Natural	Unique Area	Yates, Ontario	5929-5921 Van Epps Road Rushville, NY 14544	Bare Hill Unique Area, a 393-acre site, is home to an annual Labor Day ceremonial lighting of a bonfire to start the "Ring of Fire" or "The Festival of Lights" in which landowners around Canandaigua Lake light fires in celebration of fruitful harvests and peace. The area has two separate parcels, the southern unit (approximately 298 acres) is in the town of Middlesex in Yates County and the northern unit (approximately 95 acres) is in the town of Gorham in Ontario County.	New York State Unique Area	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Batavia Club	Historic	Historic Building	Genesee	East Main St, Batavia, NY 14020	The Batavia Club building, originally the Bank of Genesee, is a brick Federal style building from the 1830s designed and built by Hezekiah Eldredge.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes		Historic Connections and Transportation
Batavia Downs			Genesee	8215 Park Rd, Batavia, NY 14020	1940s-era facility combining live harness racing, 600+ gaming terminals, and a sports bar and grill.		Yes		Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Bear Swamp State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cayuga	3581 Baker Schoolhouse Road Cincinnatus, NY 13040	The 3,539-acre Bear Swamp State Forest includes a large wetland and creek that bisect the forest and provide excellent opportunities for those who love to paddle. A 14.3-mile multiple use trail system also provides opportunities for recreation.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Beaver Dam State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	83-29 Sears Road Richford, NY 13835	The 1,148-acre forest is a popular area for recreational activities that can be enjoyed in a forest setting. The 1.5-mile Public Forest Access Road can be traveled by automobile, bike, horse, or foot.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Beaver Dams State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben, Schuyler	Hartnett Road Moravia, NY 13118	Most of the 534-acre Beaver Dams State Forest is remote and difficult to access.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Beebe Lake	Natural	Lake	Tompkins	Ithaca, NY 14850	Beebe Lake is a reservoir in Ithaca, NY located on the campus of Cornell University. The lake was formed when Esra Cornell constructed a dam on Fall Creek to provide power to the mills owned by Jeremiah S. Beebe.	None	Yes	Walking, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovations and Lasting Legacies

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Beechwood State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Wayne	Lake Road Sodus, NY 14551	Previously the site of a Girl Scout Camp that closed in the 1990s, the Town of Sodus has managed the park since 2010.	New York State Park	Yes	Several miles of hiking trails, a picnic pavilion and a few small shelters. Fishing and canoeing access to Maxwell Creek is also available. Overnight camping is permitted with registration.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Belhurst Castle and Winery	Historic	Historic Site	Ontario	4069 W Lake Rd, Geneva, NY 14456	A winery and hotel, the Belhurst Castle and Winery is listed on the National Register of Historic Properties and offers historic lodging, delicious dining, and a renowned winery.	National Register of Historic Properties	Yes		Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Bently Woods	Natural	The Nature Conservancy Property	Ontario	Near: Log Cabin Rd, Victor, NY 14564	A land-locked parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy, has some old growth forest, unique mushrooms and lots of wetlands.	The Nature Conservancy Property	Varied; landlocked by private property	Hiking trails, wildlife	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Big Flats Historical Society	Historic	Museum	Chemung	258 Hibbard Rd, Big Flats, NY 14814	A local museum with artifacts relating to the history of Big Flats, NY.	Museum	Yes	Museum exhibits	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Birdseye Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	Birdseye Hollow Road Bradford, NY 14815	The 3,446-acre forest includes Sanford Lake, the Birdseye Hollow Park day-use area, and a Forest Stewardship Demonstration Tour.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping, day use picnicking, mountain biking, boating/paddling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Bishop Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Seneca	585-497 Boody's Hill Road Waterloo, NY 13165	This small, 30-acre site was donated to the Land Trust by Bruce Bishop and his wife in 1993. They had purchased the land opposite their home and had planted 30,000 shrubs and conifers over the years to heal the farmland and restore habitat. The site provides access to the Cayuga-Seneca Canal Trail.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Bob & Ruth's Vineyard Restaurant	Business	Restaurant	Ontario	204 N Main St, Naples, NY 14512	Since 1950, Bob & Ruth's Vineyard Restaurant on Main Street in Naples, has been a classic retro diner that has remained a popular eatery by both locals and visitors.	None	Yes	N/A	Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Bock-Harvey Forest Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	150 Rockwell Road Newfield, NY 14867	This 48-acre preserve is owned by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference and subject to a conservation easement held by the Land Trust. The site is just west of Ithaca and includes some of the regions oldest sugar maples. The site was originally part of the central New York Military Tract and was purchased and then donated by the Harvey and Bock families.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Boyd & Parker Park and Groveland Ambuscade	Historic	Historic Site	Livingston	5440 David Gray Hill Rd, Geneseo, NY 14454	The site commemorates the Boyd and Parker ambush, which took place during the Sullivan Expedition of the American Revolutionary War of September 1779.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Walking, hiking	Historic Connections and Transportation
Braddock Bay State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Monroe	Hilton, New York 14468	The purposes of the 2,125-acre Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area is for wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, and wildlife-dependent recreation. This site was transferred in 1982 from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Braddock Bay State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Monroe	199 E Manitou Road Rochester, NY 14612	Operated by the Town of Greece, the park is a popular birdwatching destination. It is part of the 2,125-acre Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area. The park is currently part of the Braddock Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project, which is being led by the Army Corps of Engineers.	New York State Park	Yes	The park features trails, visitor amenities, and two lodges.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Brand Park	Recreational	City Park	Chemung	301-311 Maple Ave, Elmira, NY 14904	Green space with a playground, pavilions, basketball/tennis courts, and baseball diamonds.	City Park	Yes	Playground, basketball, tennis, baseball, walking	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Bristol Burning Spring	Natural	Gas Springs	Ontario	4350-4364 Case Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424	Natural gas spring. The ravine in the region cuts through the gas-rich layers of shale and the gas leaks out.	Private Property	Varied		Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
Bullfinch Brewery and Brewseum	Recreational	Museum	Onondaga	720 Van Rensselaer Street Syracuse NY, 13204	Set to open in Summer 2020, the brewseum will feature the community's brewing history.	None	Not yet	N/A	Agricultural Traditions
Burt Hill Multiple Use Area	Natural	Multiple Use Area	Steuben	6205 Burt Hill Road Canisteo, NY 14823	The 403-acre site provides recreational opportunities that focus on rustic experiences with a limited amount of development. Much of this forest is remote and difficult to access.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, and camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Buttermilk Falls State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Tompkins	106 E Buttermilk Falls Road Ithaca, NY 14850	Features several waterfalls and wooded gorges.	New York State Park	Yes	The park offers hiking trails, picnic areas, playing areas, and a campground.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cameron State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	5307-5301 W Cameron Road Cameron, NY 14819	The 1,990-acre forest includes Cameron Pond, two smaller ponds, a gas pipeline down the middle, and a native grassland at the southern end.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, paddling, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cameron Mills State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	3802-4300 Pump Station Road Cameron Mills, NY 14820	The 54-acre site is remote and difficult to access and there are no formally designated trails or parking lots.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Camillus Forest Unique Area	Natural	Unique Area	Onondaga	Camillus, New York 13031	The 350-acre forest's grasslands were once managed for crop product. Now the unique area is managed to remain as grassland habitat for the many species that depend on this cover type. Additional recreational restrictions not found on state forests exist at this designated unique area.	New York State Unique Area	Yes	Camillus Forest Unique Area is a popular area for a variety of recreational activities such as: hiking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bow hunting and fishing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Camp Fossenvue	Historical	Historic Site	Seneca	County Road 137 off SR 414, Caywood Point, New York – Unmarked Location	Also known as Queen's Castle, Camp Fossenvue is the remnant of a historic camp. It is a rustic, lakeside camp structure built about 1881 on the shore of Seneca Lake.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Hiking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Canacadea State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	Canacadea State Forest Hornell, NY 14843	There is little development at the 1,623-acre state forest. There is multiple use trail marked on the map that is an unpaved public access road that is not plowed in the winter. There are also unmarked, unmaintained skid roads, deer paths, and old farm lanes that can be explored.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping, and scenic views	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Canandaigua City Pier	Historic	Building	Ontario	Lakeshore Dr, Canandaigua, NY 14424	Constructed in 1848, the series of 80 small wooden boathouses clustered on three "Fingers" off the main pier are unlike anything else you will find on any of the other Finger Lakes.	None	Yes	Walk along the pier to view the boathouses	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Canandaigua Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Ontario, Yates	Varied	Fourth largest lake, popular boating and swimming location; home to Skenoh Island, one of only two islands in the Finger Lakes.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Canadice Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Ontario	Varied	Smallest of the Finger Lakes at 3 miles long and a maximum depth of 95 feet; free from development; used as public drinking water for Rochester so no swimming allowed.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
Canaseraga State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Livingston	11299-10961 Scott Hill Road Canaseraga, NY 14822	There is little development at the 1,287-acre state forest. There is multiple use trail marked on the map that is an unpaved public access road that is not plowed in the winter. There are also unmarked, unmaintained skid roads, deer paths, and old farm lanes that can be explored.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Canoga Marsh State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Seneca	NY-89 Seneca Falls, NY 13148	This wildlife management area protects 104 acres and is located on the northwest side of Cayuga Lake. There are no designated trails, but hiking is allowed throughout the property.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, and fishing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Carolabarb Park	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Ontario	7161-7083 County Road 12 Naples, NY 14512	This park was previously a vineyard and now protects the view of Canandaigua Lake's rugged southern end and eastern shoreline. The Land Trust accepted a conservation easement on Carolabarb's scenic 38 acres in 2004 from the late Odell Scott, who simultaneously donated the land to the town of South Bristol for use as a public park. The park takes its name from both his first and second wives.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Carpenter Falls Unique Area	Natural	Unique Area	Cayuga	5986-, 6062 Appletree Point Moravia, NY 13118	This 37-acre site was created for recreational purposes and watershed protection. There are two portions of the property, the Upper Carpenter Falls, located in the southernmost portion of the property and Lower Carpenter Falls, located in the northernmost portion of the property.	New York State Unique Area	Yes	Hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Case Laboratory	Educational	Museum	Cayuga	Auburn	The Case Research Lab collection contains the equipment, complete lab notebooks, volumes of technical drawings and photographs, extensive business and personal correspondence, manuscripts and reports, patents, receipts, and scrapbooks spanning the 18-year history of the Lab. It is located behind the Cayuga Museum of History and Art and serves as the birthplace of talking movies.	None	Yes	Open Tuesday through Sunday in summer, Wednesday through Sunday in winter; timed tours	Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Cass Park	Recreation	City Park	Tompkins	701 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850	A green space featuring an ice rink, a swimming pool, 20 athletic fields, and a playground.	City Park	Yes	Walking trails, skating, swimming, athletic fields, playground	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Catharine Creek State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Schuyler	Catharine Creek Wildlife Management Area Watkins Glen, NY 14891	This 1,000-acre marsh complex is located at the southern end of Seneca Lake, between Watkins Glen and Montour Falls, as a result of sedimentation and manipulation of the lake level. The area provides a haven for innumerable wildlife. The waters of Catharine Creek still feed a remnant section of the Chemung Barge Canal, which runs through the center of the marsh.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, and fishing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Catharine Valley Trail	Recreational	Recreation	Chemung-Schuyler	Multiple	Located near and managed by staff at Watkins Glen State Park.	New York State Park	Yes	Biking, hiking, hunting, snow-shoeing, and cross-country skiing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Catlin State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Chemung	1299-881 County Road 35 Horseheads, NY 14845	There is little development at the 613-acre state forest. There are no designated recreation trails though deer paths and old farm lanes are present for exploring. Most of this forest requires walking a significant distance to access.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Seneca, Cayuga, Tompkins	Varied	Cayuga Lake is the longest Finger Lake at just under 40 miles and is roughly 435 feet deep.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga Lake Osprey Trail	Natural	Trail	Varied	Varied	The Cayuga Lake Osprey Trail is an ongoing inventory of the osprey nests and platforms easily observable from public roads in the Cayuga Lake area, within parks of Tompkins, Cayuga, Seneca, and Wayne Counties.	None	Yes	Wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga Lake State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Seneca	3169 Demont Road Seneca Falls, NY 13148	Located at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca County, this 225-acre site consists of cattail marsh and wooded swamps. Approximately 138 acres of the 225 acres are owned by the Department of Transportation and managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation under a temporary permit. The Cayuga Lake Wildlife Management Area is part of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway	Recreational	Scenic Byway	Cayuga	Varied	The 86-mile loop around Cayuga Lake created by State Routes 90, 34B, 34, 89, and 5/20 showcases the attractive lake views, glacial topography, and mix of small towns, vineyards, and farms that have come to define the Finger Lakes.	New York Scenic Byway	Yes	Recreational driving and sight-seeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway	Recreational	Scenic Byway	Cayuga, Seneca, Tompkins	Cayuga Lake	The scenic byway was officially designated a New York State Scenic Byway in 2002 by the New York State Department of Transportation. The byway is 87-miles looping around Cayuga Lake.	New York Scenic Byway	Yes	Publicly accessible for driving	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Cayuga Lake State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Seneca	2678 Lower Lake Road Seneca Falls, NY 13148	141-acre park located on the north end of Cayuga Lake.	New York State Park	Yes	The park offers beach access, campsites, cabins, and fishing access along the shore of Cayuga Lake.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga Lake Wine Trail	Recreational	Trail	Cayuga	Varied	The first organized and longest-running wine trail in America, established in 1983, to promote wineries within the Cayuga Lake American Viticultural Area.	None	Yes	Wine tasting, events, etc.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga Museum of History & Art	Educational	Museum		203 Genesee St, Auburn, NY	Also known as the Dr. Syvester Willard Mansion, the Cayuga Museum of History and Art was founded in 1936. Includes the Case Research Lab.	Museum	Yes	Changing exhibits, multi-arts space, tours	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Cayuga Nature Center	Educational	Nature Center	Tompkins	1420 Taughannock Boulevard Ithaca, NY 14850	The center provides both indoor and outdoor interpretation about the natural history of the Cayuga Lake Basin as part of the regional and global ecosystems.	None	Yes	Thursday – Monday Trails open daily Labor Day through Memorial Day	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga-Tompkins Cooperative Hunting Area	Natural	Hunting Area	Cayuga	1162 State Route 90, King Ferry, NY 13081	The Cayuga-Tompkins Cooperative Hunting Area offers hunting opportunities for pheasant, waterfowl, deer, and small game from October–January. Hunting is by permit only.	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hunting Area	Yes	Hunting	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cayuga Waterfront Trail	Natural	Trail	Tompkins	Ithaca, NY 14850	The Cayuga Waterfront Trail is an 8-mile, ADA-compliant, multiuse trail providing an active, nonmotorized transportation and recreation way connecting popular waterfront destinations along the southern shore of Cayuga Lake.	None	Yes	Biking, hiking/walking, running, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Cayuta Lake	Natural	Lake	Schuyler	Varied	Cayuta Lake is an approximately 38-acre lake located in southeastern Schuyler County about three miles northeast of Odessa. Much of the shoreline is privately owned with several private seasonal campgrounds and year-round and seasonal homes and cottages.	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Varied	Boating, fishing, canoe/kayaking, seasonal campgrounds	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Central Point Historic District	Historic	Historic Site	Steuben	14681-14697 Keuka Lake Village Road, Wayne, NY	Central Point Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic places in 2011. The District is comprised of a set of four historic cottages built in the late 1880s featuring eclectic Victorian stylistic elements.	National Register of Historic Places	Varied		Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation

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Charles Wagener House	Historic	Historic Site	Yates	351 Elm St, Penn Yan, NY	Charles Wagener House is a historic home. It is a Greek Revival style structure built about 1838.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Bed and breakfast	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Chemung County Historical Society and Museum	Educational	Museum	Chemung	Chemung County Historical Society 415 E. Water Street Elmira, NY 14901	The Chemung County Historical Society serves as a community expert on local history and preservation through innovation, education, and engagement. The museum contains various exhibits focused on Chemung County.	None	Yes	Open Monday through Friday; Mark Twain Trolley Tours offered	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Chemung County Park Station	Recreational	County Park	Chemung	1 Beaver Pond Rd, Erin, Ny 14838	A county park with fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, camping, and more.	County Park	Yes	Fishing, swimming, boating, hiking, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Chemung River Trail	Recreational	Trail	Steuben	Varied	A 15.7 mile lightly trafficked point to point trail (Corning to Elmira, NY) that features a river and is good for bird watching.	None	Yes	Hiking, wildlife watching	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Chimney Bluffs State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Wayne	7700 Garner Road Wolcott, NY 14590	Features dramatically carved 150-foot-tall shoreside cliffs formed from eroded drumlins.	New York State Park	Yes	The park offers picnic amenities and is for day-use only.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Chip Holt Nature Center	Educational	Education	Livingston	Vitale Park, Big Tree Road PO Box 523 Lakeville, NY 14480	The mission of the nature center is to: "Provide interactive educational programs and recreational opportunities for present and future generations. Promote ecological stewardship for Conesus Lake and its watershed. Increase awareness and appreciation for the natural resources of the Finger Lakes."	Education Center	Yes	Monthly programs, summer programs, and school programs	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cinnamon Lake State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Schuyler, Steuben	Cinnamon Lake State Forest Beaver Dams, NY 14812	This 1,786-acre site has a limited amount of development, including some limited trails and a very small section of pond edge.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping, and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Clark Gully	Natural	Gully	Yates	4760-4798 S Hill Rd, Middlesex, NY 14507	Clark Gully is one of several glens and gullies in the Naples area. Multiple waterfalls in the area.		Yes	Hiking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Clark Reservation State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Onondaga	6105 E Seneca Turnpike Jamesville, NY 13078	The park is centered around the former plunge pool of a large Ice Age-era waterfall and harbors the largest US population of the endangered American hart's tongue fern.	New York State Park	Yes	The park includes a nature center, trails, picnic tables, pavilions, and fishing access.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Clemens Center	Cultural	Performing Arts Theater	Chemung	207 Clemens Center Parkway, Elmira, NY 14901	The Clemens Center is a concert and theater center in Elmira, NY. It is named after Samuel Clemens, whose pen name was Mark Twain and was often resident in Elmira when writing his books.	None	Yes	Performances	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Cliffside State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Schuyler	6735-6719 NY-224 Cayuta, NY 14824	The primitive Cliffside State Forest encompasses 977 acres. Much of the Cliffside State Forest is on the side of a fairly steep cliff. The forest is part of a block of nearly 14,000 acres of public open space owned and managed by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Clinton House Hotel	Historic	Historic Site	Hunterdon	2 W Main St, Clinton, NJ 08809	Restaurant and hotel.		Yes		Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Clute Park & Campground	Recreational	Public Park	Schuyler	155 S Clute Park Dr, Watkins Glen, NY 14891	Public park and RV/tent campground, open seasonally, featuring a boat launch and sports facilities.	Public Park	Yes	Boating, fishing, camping, hiking/walking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
CNY Living History Center and Agriculture Museum	Educational	Museum	Cortland	4386 US Route 11, Cortland, NY 13045	Administered by the Homer Cortland Community Agency, the living history center includes exhibits that highlight the agricultural history of the region.	None	Yes	Open Tuesday through Saturday	Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Cold Brook State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Steuben	7745-7653 S Valley Rd, Hammondsport, NY 14840	Located at the southern end of Keuka Lake, this 116-acre area consists of two separate parcels located north of Route 54 and south of the Keuka Lake Inlet/Cold Brook in the village of Hammondsport.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Conesus Inlet State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Livingston	Conesus New York 14435	At over 1,120 acres, this wildlife management area consists of a flat valley flood plain with steep sloping hills on the east and west. Vegetation consists primarily of typical marsh species with a peripheral border of swamp hardwoods, brush, and open land. The site preserves critical northern pike spawning habitat.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Conesus Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Livingston	Varied	Westernmost major lake; 8 miles long and considered quieter destination in the region.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Connecticut Hill State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Schuyler, Tompkins	Boylan Road Newfield, NY 14867	<p>Encompassing 11,237 acres, Connecticut Hill is the largest wildlife management area in the state. It is part of the Appalachian Highlands, with elevations reaching 2,000 feet. The area offers panoramic vistas, a diversity of habitat ranging from streams and ponds; mature forests with American beech, maple and hemlock; and open meadows.</p> <p>The area was farmed after the American Revolution but abandoned by many due to the harsh climate and shallow soils, which allowed New York State to acquire almost 10,000 acres of the area for use as a game refuge. Numerous ponds were built between 1948 and 1950 to attract waterfowl and they now provide habitat for a multitude of wildlife.</p>	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Coon Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Schuyler	Chambers Road Beaver Dams, NY 14812	The primitive 2,456-acre site has a limited amount of development and requires significant walking to access.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cora Kampfe Dickinson Conservation Area	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Onondaga	Spafford, New York	The 21-acre conservation area protects shoreline of Skaneateles Lake and an area of high bluffs known locally as the Staghorn Cliffs. The area is only accessible by boat. The property was donated by members of the Dickinson family whose parents purchased the property in the 1940s.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Cornell Botanic Gardens	Natural	Botanic Garden	Tompkins	124 Comstock Knoll Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850	The Cornell Botanic Gardens is a botanical garden located adjacent to the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, New York. The Botanic Gardens proper consist of 25 acres of botanical gardens and 150 acres of the F. R. Newman Arboretum.		Yes	Grounds are open daily to the public, seasonal exhibits.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Cornell Old 600 Natural Area	Natural	Natural Area	Tompkins	600 Slaterville Road Richford, NY 13835	The 417-acre site is part of a larger forested area known locally as "Slaterville 600" or the "Old 600," which refers to the size of a military lot of 600 acres given to soldiers in lieu of payment during the Revolutionary War. Much of the site contains old-growth forest (trees older than 150 years).	Natural Area	Yes	Free and open to the public year-round from dusk to dawn.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cornell University	Educational	Educational Institution	Tompkins	Ithaca, NY 14850	Founded in 1865, the ivy league school is a privately endowed research university.	Educational Institution	Yes		Agricultural Traditions; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies

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Corning Museum of Glass	Educational	Museum	Steuben	One Museum Way Corning, NY 14830	Home to the world's most comprehensive collection of glass, one of the best glassmaking schools in the world, and an extensive library on glass and glassmaking.	None	Yes	Open to the public, school groups, and special events	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Cortland Rural Cemetery	Historic	Historic site	Cortland	110 Tompkins St., Cortland, NY 13045	A 50-acre cemetery that is 150 years old, the Cortland Rural Cemetery honors the original, 19th-century concept of a "rural cemetery." The cemetery includes cemetrails, where visitors may learn about famous people incarcerated at the site, the geology of the monument, and the site's history.	None	Yes	Open every day for self-guided tours	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Crooked Lake Canal	Historic	Canalway	Varied	Varied	Construction began in April 1831. The Canal was built to handle the same size boats as the rest of the Erie system and opened in 1833. After years of unprofitability, the waterway was officially abandoned in 1877. Its holdings were taken over by railroads and the rail line built along the canal became part of the New York Central Railroad. In 1972, the rail line was destroyed in flooding and related damage from Hurricane Agnes. The former route of the canal is partly marked as the Keuka Outlet Trail.		Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Cross Lake Islands State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Cayuga, Onondaga	County Rte 14B Jordan, NY 13080	This 26.6-acre area consists of two islands in the southern portion of Cross Lake. The Seneca River flows through the lower portion of the lake and passes the islands. The management area is only accessible by boat.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cumming Nature Center	Education	Educational Institution	Ontario	6472 Gulick Rd, Naples, NY 14512	A 900-acre environmental education facility. Owned by the Rochester Museum & Science Center, the preserve features over fifteen miles of trails and offers educational programs and service-learning opportunities.	Educational Institution	Yes	Trails, exhibits, camps, seasonal events	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Cuyler Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland, Chenango	Potter Hill Cemetery Road Truxton, NY 13158	Cuyler Hill State Forest encompasses 5,507 acres.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, fishing, camping, bird watching, and nature viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Danby State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tompkins	601-473 Bald Hill Road Spencer, NY 14883	The 7,651-acre Danby State Forest includes diverse topography and habitats for a variety of plants and wildlife. The forest has a variety of scenic landscapes including streams, forests, ravines and Michigan Hollow. The large size and close proximity to Ithaca and the Finger Lakes region make this a great recreational resource.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching, snowmobiling and camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Darien Lakes State Park	Recreation	State Park	Genesee	10475 Harlow Rd, Darien Center, NY 14040	A 1,845-acre state park with a hilly terrain, woodlands, ravines, streams, and a 12 acre lake.	New York State Park	Yes	Swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, hiking, cross-country skiing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Dog Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	Jones Road Truxton, NY 13158	The 723-acre forest is in northeastern Cortland County.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking (informal, no trails), hunting, trapping, fishing, bird watching, trapping and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Donahue Woods State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	Harris Hill Road Truxton, NY 13158	Donahue Woods State Forest encompasses 1,165 acres with a 2-mile public forest access road that bisects the forest and provides recreational access.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting, birdwatching, nature viewing, informal hiking and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Cayuga	Summerhill, New York	Located along the Lake Como outlet, the preserve is in the Town of Summerhill. The sanctuary sits along the high plateau and is bisected by Fall Creek near its headwaters. The preserve is known for its rich shrub fen grades into peat swamp and forest on either side of the creek. Dorothy McIlroy was renowned and beloved for her gentle manner and extraordinary knowledge of birds. She played a significant role in the early days of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell. Following her death in 1999, at age 91, her children donated funds to the Finger Lakes Land Trust to establish a preserve in her memory. This donation, plus money from an anonymous grant, enabled the Finger Lakes Land Trust to purchase the initial three parcels of the preserve in 2002. Since then additional parcels have been acquired and the preserve now includes 259 contiguous acres in the heart of the Summerhill wetland complex.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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The Dove Block	Historic	Historic Site	Ontario	465 Exchange Street Geneva, NY 14456	The Dove Block was constructed in 1878 by William G. Dove, a brick-maker and contractor. The three-story structure has a cast iron storefront which is highly ornate. The Dove Block is significant historically and to the fabric of downtown Geneva: Architecturally it is an excellent and intact example of a High Victorian commercial block. Arthur Dove, son of the builder, was one of America's abstract painters who lived and worked in the building's third floor during his most prolific period. For more than a hundred years, the Dove Block served as a store-front for a number of Geneva's businesses on the first floor. On the upper floors, at various times, it was an auditorium, a National Guard drill hall, a roller skating rink, a host for professional wrestling and boxing matches, a radio station, and a dance hall. For a time in the 1890s, the block was known as "Dove's Opera House," a performance venue for touring opera and acting troupes.			In person tours must set up a reservation	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Dryden Lake	Natural	Lake	Tompkins	Dryden, NY	Dryden Lake is a shallow weekly lake located near the Village of Dryden. Most of the lake has very significant rooted aquatic vegetation growth.	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Yes	Boating, fishing, canoeing, kayaking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Dry Run State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Schuyler	Dry Run State Forest Beaver Dams, NY 14812	Dry Run State Forest consists of 1,062 acres. With limited development, most of this forest requires significant walking to access.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Dundee Historic District	Historic	Historic District	Yates	Main and Water Streets Dundee, NY	Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. Consists of 71 properties.	Historic District	Yes	Open to the public.	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
East Bluff Harbor	Recreational	Marina	Yates	6508 East Bluff Drive, Penn Yan, NY	A full-service marina located in the heart of the Finger Lakes.	None	Yes	Boating, fishing, food	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
East Shore Preserve at Bare Hill	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yates	474-496 County Road 39 Rushville, NY 14544	A 2.5-acre preserve protecting 390 ft of the Canandaigua Lake shoreline, this cove beach is not yet open.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Eastman School of Music	Educational, Historic	Educational Institution	Monroe	26 Gibbs Street Rochester, NY 14604	A school focused on preparing students for meaningful lives in music.	Educational Institution	Yes	N/A	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Eggleston Glen	Recreational	Natural Site	Yates	Yates County, NY 14827	A valley with a waterfall	None	Yes	Hiking, waterfall	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Eight Square Schoolhouse	Historic	Historic Building	Tompkins	1756 Hanshaw Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850	The Eight Square Schoolhouse is an original one-room schoolhouse built in 1827. It was operational as a school until 1945. The History Center in Tompkins County runs a living history program at the site.	National Historic Landmark	No	Private programs	Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Eldridge Park	Recreational	State Park	Chemung	96 Eldridge Park Dr, Elmira, NY 14901	Eldridge Park was a famous amusement park around the turn of the 20th century. Covering roughly 15 acres, it is now a mix of old and new – a walking park, an amusement park, and more.	State Park	Yes	Walking, amusement rides	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Elizabeth Cady Stanton House	Historic	Historic Site	Seneca	32 Washington Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148	Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the outspoken social progressive that championed temperance, women’s rights, and abolitionism, called her Seneca Falls home the “Center of the Rebellion. It is now part of the Women’s Rights National Historical Park	National Historic Landmark	Yes	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	Ellis Hollow Creek Road Ithaca, NY 14850	Located east of Ithaca, the preserve is on the northern hillside of the Ellis Hollow valley. Several streams run through the preserve draining into Cascadilla Creek. These streams help maintain water quality in the creek and nearby wetlands. A long-time resident of the area, Barbara Keeton and her family, donated 111 acres to the Land Trust in 2000 created the preserve. In 2009, the Land Trust added to the area when they purchased the Pearman Woods parcel, which borders the adjacent Cornell University Durland Bird Sanctuary.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Elmira Civil War Prison Camp	Historic	Historic Site	Chemung	645 Winsor Ave, Elmira, NY 14902	The Prison Camp reopened in 2017 for the first time since the camp closed in August 1865. The camp was termed “Hellmira” curing the civil war by its inmates.	None	Yes	N/A	Historic Connection and Transportation
Elmira College	Educational	Educational Institution	Chemung	One Park Place, Elmira New York 14901	Elmira College is a private, coeducational college that originated as the first college for women in 1855. Now, it is home to the Center of Mark Twain Studies, one of four nationally recognized Twain sites which serves as a research center for visiting Twain scholars.	Educational Institution	Yes	N/A	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Emerson Park	Recreational	Park	Cayuga	6877 E Lake Rd, Auburn, NY 13021	A waterfront park that includes a historic pavilion, playground, boat launches, and picnic shelters with ample recreational opportunities.	None	Yes	Open every day	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Empire State Trail	Recreational	Recreation	Multiple	Multiple	A 750-mile trail is the longest multi-use state trail in the nation, spanning from New York City to Canada and Buffalo to Albany.	None	Yes	Walking, hiking, running, bicycling, snow-shoeing, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling in some areas	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Engelbert Farm		Farm	Tioga	182 Sunnyside Rd, Nichols, NY 13812	First organic dairy farm in the country, it has been operated as a family farm since 1911. The farm is part of the Finger Lakes Cheese Alliance, consisting of 12 working family farms and producers.	None	Yes	Visitors can stop by the store and creamery; or attend one of the festivals/events offered.	Agricultural Traditions
Erie Canal Museum	Educational, Historic	Museum	Onondaga	318 Erie Boulevard East Syracuse, NY 13202	The Erie Canal Museum, located within the 1850 National Register Weighlock Building interprets the incredible adventure story of the Erie and its role in the growth and development of the United States.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Monday – Saturday, reservations required	Historic Connections and Transportation
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor	Historic	Canalway	Varied	Varied	Established by Congress in 2000, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor recognizes the national significance of the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain Canals.	National Heritage Corridor	Yes	Recreational opportunities include hiking, biking, paddling, etc.	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Erie Canalway UGRR Program	Educational	NPS Affiliate Program	Albany	National Park Service, 1 Delaware Ave, Cohoes, Albany, NY 12047	The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's UGRR program serves as an umbrella support network for the Network to Freedom sites within and near the corridor.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Currently open to the public	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Erwin State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Steuben	9299-9101 Smith Hill Road Painted Post, NY 14870	The 2,490-acre management area is located approximately 5 miles west of the City of Corning.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Erwin Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	2-82 Erwin Hollow Road Painted Post, NY 14870	Erwin Hollow State Forest consists of 531 acres. With limited development, most of this forest requires significant walking to access.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Erwin Mountain State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	460-626 Beartown Road Painted Post, NY 14870	Erwin Mountain State Forest consists of 507 acres and can only be accessed by walking across part of Erwin Wildlife Management Area.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Etna Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	582-590 NY-366 Freeville, NY 13068	This 26-acre preserve includes woods, wetlands, streams, and a section of floodplain that adjoins Fall Creek, a tributary of Cayuga Lake. The preserve was created in 1991 with a donation of 12 acres by Walter and Sally Spofford. A gift of additional acreage was accepted by the Land Trust in 2011 from the Henderson family and another 1.5 acres was purchased in that same year.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Everson Museum of Art	Educational	Museum	Onondaga	401 Harrison St, Syracuse, NY 13202	It was the first museum to dedicate itself to the collection of American art, to create a permanent collection of ceramics, to collect video art, to create a docent program and to hire the now internationally-known architect I.M. Pei to design its building, a sculptural work of art in its own right. The Everson is home to approximately 11,000 works of art: American paintings, sculpture, drawings, video, graphics and one of the largest holdings of international ceramics in the nation.	None	Yes	Open Wednesday to Sunday for guided, self-guided, and audio tours	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Fair Haven Beach State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Cayuga	14985 State Park Road Fair Haven, NY 13064	Located on the eastern shoreline of Lake Ontario, this park offers shoreline bluffs, sandy beaches, and adjoining hilly woodlands.	New York State Park	Yes	Visitors can enjoy swimming, biking, hiking, picnicking, camping, and fishing. In the winter, cross-country skiing and ice fishing are popular.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Fairfield State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	1-257 Jenksville Hill Road Candor, NY 13743	The 815-acre Fairfield State Forest does not have any formal hiking trails, but hiking is permitted anywhere on the property unless otherwise posted. Additional access is provided by a 2-mile public forest access road and by Jenksville Hill Road, a seasonal town road (not plowed) that cuts through the forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hiking, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Fall Brook Gorge	Natural	National Natural Landmark	Livingston		The approximately 102-acre Fall Brook Gorge represents one of the finest exposures of Upper and Middle Devonian Age strata in the United States. The gorge showcases significant fossil remains and a cap-rock waterfall, as well as plant and animal communities associated with sharply contrasting microclimates. The gorge is privately owned and was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1970.	National Natural Landmark	No	The Fall Brook Gorge is on private land.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape

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Fillmore Glen State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Cayuga	1686 NY-38 Moravia, NY 13118	Known for its waterfalls, the 941-acre park consists of dense woods gathering into a long, narrow gorge.	New York State Park	Yes	The park has 60 campsites, a stream-fed swimming pool, and fishing access on the Owasco Lake inlet.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Finger Lakes Boating Museum	Cultural	Museum	Steuben	8231 Pleasant Valley Rd, Hammondsport, NY 14840	The Finger Lakes Boating Museum exists to provide educational programming and exhibits that help preserve the rich boating history of the Finger Lakes.	Museum	Yes	Educational programs and exhibits	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Finger Lakes Community College	Educational	Educational Institution	Ontario	3325 Marvin Sands Dr, Canandaigua, NY 14424	A public community college, affiliated with the State University of New York and sponsored by Ontario County; has a nationally recognized conservation program. Also has the CMAC venue	Educational Institution	Yes	N/A	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Finger Lakes Film Trail	Educational	Recreational / Educational	Cayuga	Multiple	Finger Lakes Film Trail offers the opportunity to interpret the singular history and culture of central New York by highlighting some of the greatest motion picture innovations at three sites: the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, the Wharton Studio Museum in Ithaca, and the Case Research Laboratory in Auburn.	None	Yes	Visitors can attend film events, lectures, and screenings.	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Finger Lakes Institute	Educational	Educational Institution	Ontario	601 South Main St, Geneva, NY 14456	The Finger Lakes Institute is part of Hobart and William Smith Colleges and is dedicated to the promotion of environmental research and education about the Finger Lakes and surrounding environments.	Educational Institution	Yes	N/A	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Finger Lakes National Forest	Natural	National Forest	Schuyler	5218 State Route 414 Hector, NY 14841	New York's only national forest is located on a ridge called the backbone between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. The site is managed to provide a diversity of native forestlands, shrublands and grasslands, a range of wildlife habitats, quality recreation areas and forage areas for free-range livestock.	National Forest	Yes	Open to the public with over 30 miles of trails and prime wildlife and bird viewing opportunities.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Finger Lakes Trail	Recreational	Recreation	Multiple	Multiple	The Finger Lakes Trail System—part of the North Country National Scenic Trail—runs over 950 miles from the New York-Pennsylvania border to the Catskills and covers some of the most scenic landscape in New York.	None	Yes	Walking, hiking, running, and camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
First Baptist Church of Elmira	Historic	Church	Chemung	121 West Church St, Elmira, NY 14901	Founded in 1829, the church had one of the first congregations in the area before also functioning as a hotel and a blacksmith shop. The First Baptist Church of Elmira sold its property in 2009.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Currently open to the public	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements

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Fontainebleau Inn	Historic	Historic Site	Schuyler	2800 State Route 228 Alpine, NY 14805	Built in 1814, the Fontainebleau Inn is a stately manor house tucked on the shores of Cayuta Lake. The historic estate features 30 acres of old-growth forest, spectacular gardens, and wide, grassy lawns.	None			Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Fort Hill Cemetery	Historic	Cemetery	Cayuga	19 Fort St, Auburn, NY 13021	Fort Hill Cemetery is a historically significant cemetery located in Auburn, NY. It was incorporated on May 15, 1851, under its official name: "Trustees of the Fort Hill Cemetery Association of Auburn." Two of the most famous people buried at Fort Hill are William H. Seward and Harriet Tubman.		Yes	Currently open to the public, trail through cemetery, active cemetery	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Frenchman's Island State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Oswego	Island in Oneida Lake, Oswego County, NY	This 28-acre area was formerly operated as Frenchman Island State Park but was transferred to the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2011 and is now part of the Three Mile Bay Wildlife Management Area. The island is only accessible by boat.				Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
Frozen Ocean State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cayuga	3864-3860 Quarry Road Moravia, NY 13118	Situated on one of the highest points in the county, the 753-acre Frozen Ocean State Forest is known for brisk, freezing winter winds. There are no trails on this forest, but hiking is permitted anywhere on the property unless otherwise posted.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting, fishing, trapping, and primitive camping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Galen State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Wayne	River Road Clyde, NY 14433	In 1980, this management area was purchased with funds from the Wetland Preservation category of the 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act. At the request of the former owner, William Heit, the main portion of the management area is designated as the Ezra and Kate Heit Marsh unit as a memorial.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Ganondagan State Historic Site (Boughton Hall)	Historic	Historic Site	Ontario	7000 County Road, Victor, NY 14564	The largest Seneca village during the 17th century and a location connected to creation of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.	National Historic Landmark	Yes	Visitors can view a full-size Seneca Bark Longhouse, follow two interpretive trails to learn more about Haudenosaunee cultural and history, plant life, and the history and importance of Fort Hill—a palisaded granary used by the Haudenosaunee people, and take part in special events and programs offered throughout the year.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies

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Cardeau Tract	Historic	Historic Site	Wyoming	4732 NY-39, Castile, NY 14427	The Cardeau Tract contained 17,927 acres on both sides of the Genesee River. The land was reserved for Mary Jemison (known as "The Old White Woman" or "The White Woman of the Genesee") by the Seneca Nation in the Big Tree treaty of 1797.	Historic Marker	Varied	Varied	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Garrett Memorial Chapel	Historic	Historic Site	Yates	5251 Skyline Dr, Penn Yan, NY 14527	The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the last significant remnant of Garrett and Company, its use of a number of novel building materials and techniques, and for the extensive collection of unique stained-glass windows, including the last windows ever made by the distinguished artist Frederick Wilson.	National Historic Place	Yes	Tours, events	Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Gee Brook State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	Lieb Road Cincinnatus, NY 13040	The 865-acre Gee Brook State Forest is named for the beautiful sparkling creek that flows through it. It is a small but popular area.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, bird watching, and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Genesee Country Village Living History Museum	Educational	Museum	Monroe	1410 Flint Hill Road Mumford, NY 14511	The largest living history museum in New York. Offers 600 acres of interactive programs, exhibits, and special events. Goal was to preserve the architecture of the Genesee Valley region in a recreated historic village.	None	Yes	Open to the public, school groups, special events	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Genesee Valley Greenway State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Monroe, Livingston, Wyoming, Allegany	1 Letchworth State Park Castile, NY 14427	The state park is a 90-mile corridor that follows the route of the Genesee Valley Canal (1840-1878) and the Pennsylvania Railroad Rochester Branch (1882-1963) from the Erie Canalway Trail to the Village of Cuba.	New York State Park	Yes	90-mile-long rail trail in the Genesee River valley	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Genung Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	2-104 NY-38 Freeville, NY 13068	The 53-acre preserve follows along a mile of Fall Creek as it makes its way toward Cayuga Lake. The land was donated to the Land Trust in 2005 by a Freeville resident, Mildred Sherwood. The Land Trust transferred the land to the Village of Freeville, subject to a conservation easement held by the Land Trust.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
George and Rebecca Barnes House	Historic	Historic Site	Onondaga	930 James St, Syracuse, NY 13203	The Barnes House served as a meeting space to identify routes for the freedom seekers to take after their arrival to Syracuse. Other meetings held at the house included antislavery convention plans held in 1854.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Currently open to the public	Historic Connections and Transportations; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements

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George Eastman's House	Educational	Museum	Monroe	900 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607	George Eastman's 1905 Colonial Revival Mansion served as his home until his death in 1935. He was a pioneer in photography and film and the founder of the Kodak Camera Company.	National Historic Landmark	Yes	Open to the public Tuesday through Sunday	Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Geva Theatre Center	Cultural	Venue	Monroe	75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607	The theatre is housed in an 1868 building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Center has full seasons of programming, in addition to discussions based on plays and staged readings, and community outreach.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Theatre productions	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Gifford-Walker Farm	Historic	Historic Building	Genesee	7083 N Bergen Rd, North Bergen, NY 14416	The Gifford-Walker Farm, also known as the Alice Walker Farm, is a two-story farmhouse built in 1870 in the Carpenter Gothic style. In 1980 it and an accompanying barn and shed were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.	National Register of Historic Places			Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Glenn Curtis Museum	Educational	Museum	Schuyler	8419 NY-54, Hammondsport, NY 14840	Dedicated to the memory of pioneer aviator, Glenn Curtiss, the museum contains a priceless collection relating to early aviation and regional history. The museum also features a 75-seat theater, large open area for special events and a museum store.	None	Yes	Open every day with varying hours in the winter; guided tours available	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Glenwood Cemetery	Historic	Cemetery	Ontario	1000 Lochland Road Geneva, NY 14456	A Victorian garden cemetery planned and designed in 1872 by H.W.S. Cleveland, a close friend of Frederick Law Olmstead. The cemetery was designed to be a park.	None	Yes	Tours are run by the Geneva Historical Society.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Goetchius Wetland Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	3222 Slaterville Road Brooktondale, NY 14817	This preserve is a wetland restoration partnership between the Susquehanna Coalition, who secured land acquisition funding and provided wetland expertise, and the Finger Lakes Land Trust, who owns and manages the preserve. Four properties were acquired to secure the preserve.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Gold Seal Vineyard	Historic	Winery	Schuyler	8260 Pleasant Valley Rd, Hammondsport, NY 14840	A historic winery complex, the oldest winery in the Finger Lakes region. The complex includes eight buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Open for tours (every day during the summer)	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Granger Homestead and Carriage Museum	Historic	Museum	Ontario	295 North Main Street Canandaigua, NY 14424	The museum was home to Gideon Granger, the longest serving Postmaster General of the United States and four generations of the family. The homestead includes the Granger mansion, Victorian gardens, the largest collection of horse-drawn vehicles in Western New York and five outbuildings on a 12-acre property.	Component of a National Historic District	Yes	Open seasonally for tours	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation

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Great Hill Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yates	4552-4758 S Hill Road Middlesex, NY 14507	Overlooking Canandaigua Lake, this 255-acre preserve, also referred to as South Hill, is high above the lakeshore and next to the Hi Tor Wildlife Management Area. This area is revered by the Seneca as the birthplace of their people and is known to them as Nundawao. The land was donated by several families and added to in 2012 by an additional land purchase.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Green Lakes State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Onondaga	7900 Green Lakes Road Fayetteville, NY 13066	The park features two glacial lakes (Round and Green Lakes) surrounded by upland forest.	New York State Park	Yes	The park offers camping, nonmotorized boat rentals, trails, and access to swimming, fishing, and hunting.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Greenwood State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	Corbett Hollow Road Beaver Dams, NY 14812	The 906-acre forest has limited development.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, and camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Griggs Gulf State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland, Tioga	Griggs Gulf Road Richford, NY 13835	Griggs Gulf State Forest encompasses 2,365 acres of land.	New York State Forest	Yes	Snowmobiling, hunting, trapping, nature observation, and informal hiking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Grimes Glen County Park	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Ontario	Naples, New York 14512	Through a combination of generous donations from individuals, businesses, and civic organizations, the Finger Lakes Land Trust purchased the 32-acre property from Donald Braun in 2008 and then donated the site to Ontario County. The park is known for its waterfalls but is also known as the source of the oldest fossilized tree in New York, the so-called Naples Devonian Tree which was discovered here by D. Dana Luther in 1882. The tree was removed by paleontologists in 1887 and put on display in the State Museum in Albany.	Ontario County Park	Yes	Hiking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Goundry Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Schuyler	Corbett Hollow Road Beaver Dams, NY 14812	Goundry Hill State Forest encompasses 2,112 acres and includes a portion of the multiple use Six Nations Trail System and the Finger Lakes Hiking Trail.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Hamlin Beach State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Monroe	1 Hamlin Beach State Park Hamlin, NY 14464	Located on the shore of Lake Ontario, the park offers clear water, sandy beaches, and 264 tent and trailer campsites.	New York State Park	Yes	Six miles of hiking and biking trails and other visitor amenities	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Hamlin Marsh State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Onondaga	8047-7901 Henry Clay Boulevard Liverpool, NY 13090	This management area includes 1,686 acres, about 88% of which is wetland habitat. The marsh has had several former names including; Clay Marsh, Cicero Swamp, Little Cicero Swamp, and Peat Swamp. It was renamed the Stanley J. Hamlin Marsh WMA in 1994 after a local conservationist who was instrumental in the state's acquisition of the area.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing, boat access	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Hammond Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tompkins, Tioga	321-325 Star Stanton Road Dryden, NY 13053	Hammond Hill State Forest encompasses 3,618 acres and is a popular area for recreation.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, biking, fishing, horseback riding, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Hangar Theatre	Cultural	Theatre	Tompkins	801 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850	The Hangar Theatre is a nonprofit, regional theater.	Theatre	Yes	Performing arts productions	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Harriet Tubman Burial Site at Fort Hill Cemetery	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	19 Fort St, Auburn, NY 13021	Fort Hill Cemetery is both a historic site and an active cemetery. The cemetery was incorporated in 1851 and has connection to Native nations.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Self-guided walking tours are available.	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Harriet Tubman National Historical Park	Historic	National Historical Park	Cayuga	180 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021	Harriet Tubman National Historical Park consists of a 32-acre campus that includes the park visitor center, Harriet Tubman Residence, the Tubman Home for the Aged, and the Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church. The sites are operated by a partner, the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.	National Historical Park; NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Park in progress with limited visitor services	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Harris Hill County Park	Natural	County Park	Chemung	599 Harris Hill Rd, Elmira, NY 14903	Harris Hill is a public park with an amusement park, pool, and green space.	County Park	Yes	Pool, youth camps, pavilions, playground, arcade, rides, museum	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Hart's Woods	Natural	National Natural Landmark	Monroe	Fairport, NY 14450	A rare remnant of the beech-maple forest that once extended along the glaciated area from southeastern Wisconsin to north-central New York. The approximately 14-acre site was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1972. The site has limited access points.	National Natural Landmark	Yes	Open to the public as Hart's Woods Open Space, which is owned and managed by the Town of Perinton Recreation and Parks Department	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Havana Glen Park	Natural	City Park	Schuyler	135 Havana Glen Rd, Montour Falls, NY 14865	Park offering areas for picnics and camping, plus a Creekside trail leading to a small waterfall.	City Park	Yes	Picnics, camping, hiking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Hector Falls	Natural	Waterfall	Schuyler	Burdett, NY 14818	A cascade waterfall on Hector Falls Creek; can be viewed from a bridge along Route 414	None	Yes	Waterfall viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Helmer Creek State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Steuben	County Road 119 Cameron Mills, NY 14820	This 126-acre management area consist of open land and woodland.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Hemlock Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Livingston, Ontario	Varied	Used as a county water source; development restricted and swimming prohibited; but fishing from nonmotorized craft is allowed.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Hemlock-Canadice State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Livingston, Ontario	E Lake Road Hemlock, NY 14466	The 6,849-acre state forest surrounds Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, which are the source of Rochester's drinking water. The city acquired much of the land around the lakes to protect the water quality.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, paddling and boating, fishing, hunting and trapping, biking, and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art	Cultural	Museum	Tompkins	114 Central Ave, Ithaca, NY 14853	An art museum with collections including two windows from Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin D. Martin House, and more than 35,000 other works.	Museum	Yes	Museum exhibits	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Herman and Hannah Phillips House	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	3000 State Route 34B, Aurora, NY 13021	Herman and Hannah Phillips led their family from slavery, walking from Maryland to New York. They resided in a house in Sherwood (Cayuga County) before escaping to Canada upon being recognized.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	No	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Hewitt State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	713-611 Hewitt Road Homer, NY 13077	Hewitt is New York State's first State Forest established between 1929 and 1942 to reduce soil erosion, produce forest products, help stabilize the tax base, and provide recreational opportunities. There are no formal hiking trails, but hiking is permitted anywhere unless posted otherwise.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Highland Park	Recreation	County Park	Monroe	171 Reservoir Ave, Rochester, NY 14620	A 150-acre park that is host to many fun activities, events, and interesting attractions. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted to seem like a natural occurrence of trees, shrubs, and flowers, Highland Park is actually a completely planned arboretum. Also contains the Warner Castle and Sunken Garden.	County Park	Yes	Walking, hiking, biking, ice skating, playground, performances	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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High Tor State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Ontario, Yates	Parking Area - Blue Trail 4212-4248 Parrish Hill Road Naples, NY 14512	This 6,800-acre management area includes several ecological habitats including steep wooded hills, gullies, eroded cliffs, and wetlands. The largest part of the area is about 3,700 acres just east of the Village of Naples. To the north, a 2,200-acre portion of the management area consists of lowland marsh, forested wetlands and grassland bordering Canandaigua Lake. This portion is drained by Naples Creek. A smaller portion, known as South Hill, is east of the southern end of Canandaigua Lake.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
High Vista Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Cortland	3703-3711 Vincent Hill Road Homer, NY 13077	Above the shores of Skaneateles Lake, this 139-acre preserve consists of both young and mature hardwood forest, seeps and springs, and a small wetland. The land was given to the Land Trust by The Nature Conservancy in 1993.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Hill Cumorah Visitors Center	Education	Visitor Center	Ontario	603 State Route 21 South Palmyra, NY 14522	The visitor center provides exhibits and information on the events that occurred on and near the Hill Cumorah in the 1820s and 1830s, including Joseph Smith Jr.'s visions and the translation of the Book of Mormon.	None	Yes	Open daily with varying seasonal hours	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Hinchcliff Family Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Onondaga	Covey Road Homer, NY 13077	This preserve is located at the southern end of Skaneateles Lake and is a key part of a growing greenbelt of preserved land. The lake is a drinking water source for the city of Syracuse and other communities and, as such, the protection of this watershed is important. The land within the two portions of the preserve was formerly part of the Burns family farm, who continue to farm neighboring land.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Historic Hanover Square	Historic	Historic Site	Chemung	102 S Main St, Horseheads, NY 14845	Most of the buildings in the district were built between 1862 and 1882 in the Romanesque Revival style. The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.	Historic District	Yes		Historic Connections and Transportation
Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Historic	Historic Site	Ontario	Hobart and William Smith Colleges Geneva, NY 14456	Located on 320 acres in the heart of New York State's Finger Lakes region, Hobart and William Smith are independent liberal arts colleges distinctive for providing highly individualized educations.				Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Holding Point	Historic	Historic Site	Chemung	Horsehead, NY	An area in the Town of Horseheads, NY. During WWII, the federal government held German prisoners of war and stored ammunition, jeeps, and other war supplies on the land. Currently an industrial center and recreational sports complex.	None	Yes	Industrial center and recreational sports complex	Historic Connections and Transportation
Holland Land Office Museum	Cultural	Museum	Genesee	131 W Main St, Batavia, NY 14020	The Holland Land Office building is a stone building designed by surveyor Joseph Ellicott and erected in the 1810s. It was the third and last office of the Holland Land Company which owned almost all of what is today Western New York.	Museum	Yes	Museum exhibits	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Honeoye Creek State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Ontario	4500-4576 County Road 37 Livonia, NY 14487	This management area includes 717 acres purchased in 1988 with funds from the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act. The land consists of agricultural fields, brush lots, woodlands, and swamps.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Honeoye Inlet State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Ontario	6853 County Road 36 Honeoye, NY 14471	This 1,977-acre management area is located in southern Ontario County at the south end of Honeoye Lake. A dug channel, which is the main inlet to Honeoye Lake, runs through a wooded swamp in the management area and is a popular spot for recreational activities.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Honeoye Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Ontario	Varied	Second smallest and shallowest of the Finger Lakes at 30 feet maximum depth; its shallow depth allowed for ice-skating and ice fishing in the winter.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Houghton Land Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Steuben	10490-10470 County Road 40 Corning, NY 14830	This 194-acre preserve is a mix of forests and fields on Spencer Hill, outside of Corning, New York. The land was gifted to the Land Trust in 2016 by Jamie and Maisie Houghton.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Howland Stone Store	Historic	Museum	Cayuga	2956 NY-34B, Aurora, NY 13026	Howland Cobblestone Store Museum is a 19th-century store significant for its unusual cobblestone architecture.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site' National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Tours available	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation

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Hoxie Gorge State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	Steve Russell Hill Road Marathon, NY 13803	The forest encompasses 2,115 acres.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
The Human Rights Museum	Historic	Museum		NA	Opens June 17, 2023; currently in development. It will open on the 150th anniversary of Susan B Anthony's trial for voting here in Canandaigua. Will highlight local freedom fighters: Frederick Douglass, Susan B Anthony, the Women's Right Convention and Harriet Tubman.				Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
International Racing Research Center	Educational	Museum and Research Center	Schuyler	610 S Decatur St, Watkins Glen, NY 14891	The International Motor Racing Research Center collects, shares, and preserves the history of motorsports. Visitors can view archives, books, model cars, art, and photography dedicated to the history of motor racing.	None	Yes	Open Monday through Friday	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Monroe	Culver Road Irondequoit, NY 14622	State park operated by the town of Irondequoit and facilitates fishing and boating access to Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay.	New York State Park	Yes	Fishing and boating access to Irondequoit Bay and Lake Ontario	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Italy Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Yates	Branchport, New York 14418	The 1,899-acre site has limited development and offers a rustic recreational experience.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping, and snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Ithaca College	Educational	Educational Institution	Tompkins	953 Danby Road Ithaca, NY 14850	The school began as a music conservatory in 1892 and has since grown into a liberal arts college that offers over 100-degree programs.	Educational Institution	Yes	N/A	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Ithaca Farmers Market	Cultural	Open Market	Tompkins	Steamboat Landing 545 3rd Street Ithaca, NY 14850	The market is a member-run cooperative with members that grow or produce their wares within 30 miles of the Ithaca pavilion. Vendors sell agriculture, food, and artisan products.	None	Yes	Open varying days seasonally	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
James Canning and Lydia Fuller House	Historic	Historic Site	Onondaga	98 Genesee St, Skaneateles, NY 13152	James Canning Fuller was secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society and Skaneateles and sent antislavery petitions to Congress. He was appointed delegate to the World Anti-Slavery Convention in 1840 and purchased a community near Ontario to set up a haven for freedom seekers.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	No	N/A	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
James Kennedy State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	Courtney Hill Road Marathon, NY 13803	This 4,422-acre site and was named in memory of the District Forester James D. Kennedy.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Jell-O Museum	Cultural	Museum	Genesee	23 E Main St, Le Roy, NY 14482	A museum dedicated to exhibits about Jell-O. The museum is owned and operated by the Le Roy Historical Society.	Museum	Yes	Museum exhibits	Agricultural Traditions; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Jenksville State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	Newark Valley, NY 13811	This state forest encompasses 1,349 acres in northeastern Tioga County and includes multiple trails.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, biking, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, horseback riding	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Jervis Langdon	Historic	Historic Site	Chemung	413 Lake St, Elmira, NY 14901	Jervis Langdon was Mark Twain's father-in-law, an abolitionist, and an active participant in the underground railroad. A self-made millionaire, he provided funding, lodging, and participated in antislavery activities throughout the county. His last home, where Mark Twain married his daughter, was torn down in 1939 and replaced by a shopping plaza named Langdon Plaza.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	No	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Jethro Wood House	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	Poplar Ridge, NY	Jethro Wood patented the first commercially successful cast-iron plow in 1814 and renewed the patent in 1819; it is now a private residence.	National Historic Landmark	No		Agricultural Traditions; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Johnston House	Historic	Historic Site	Geneva	3523 East Lake Road at Route 96A	Built by Scotch immigrant John Johnston in 1822, the house is located on the original land where Johnston became a well-known advocate of improved farming techniques. He was the first farmer in the United States to use agricultural drain tiles to increase productivity on his farm, and it became one of the most famous farms in 19th-century America. The site also includes the Mike Weaver Drain Tile Museum, which contains a comprehensive collection of drain tiles dating from ancient times to the present.		Yes		Agricultural Traditions; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
John W. Jones House	Educational	Museum	Chemung	1250 Davis St, Elmira, NY 14901	John W. Jones' house in Elmira, New York is an interactive museum commemorating the life and work of the former slave, who as an Underground Railroad Station Master, safely assisted nearly 800 slaves' flight to Canada.	None	Yes	Open weekends from June 21 through August 31	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Joshua W. Samantha Wright House	Historic	Historic Site	Seneca	61 Bridge St, Seneca Falls, NY 13148	Wright was a freedom seeker who traveled to Seneca Falls and became a barber and active abolitionist. He served as a trustee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, an antislavery church that hosted the nation's first women's rights convention.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	No	N/A	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Junius Ponds Unique Area	Natural	Unique Area	Seneca	Phelps, NY	Located in Phelps, NY.	New York State Unique Area	Yes		Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Kashong Conservation Area	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Ontario	787-241 Kashong Road Geneva, NY 14456	This 84-acre area former farmland includes hardwood forest, brush land, and fields located on a tributary to Seneca Lake. Polly Spedding and her husband donated the land to the town of Geneva in 2008 and a public park was created in cooperation with the Land Trust.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Keeney House	Historic	Historic Building	Genesee	Main Street, Le Roy, NY 14482	The Keeney House is a two-story wood frame house dating to the mid-19th century. The house and its carriage house were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.	National Register of Historic Places			Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Kelsey's Landing at Lower Falls	Historic	Historic Site	Monroe	Rochester, NY 14613	The Landing is a nonextant commercial dock and grain elevator that was used to lead slaves onto cargo steam ships bound for Canada and Detroit from 1847 to 1859.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes		Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Kershaw Park	Natural	City Park	Ontario	155 Lakeshore Dr, Canandaigua	Landscaped beach features lakefront walkways, a public doc, picnic pavilions, and an open-air gazebo.	City Park	Yes	Beach area, public dock, pavilions, gazebo	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Ketchumville State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	Newark Valley, New York 13811	500-acre primitive site with no formally marked trails. Informal hiking opportunities are available on former logging trails, the public forest access road, and old town roads.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Kettlebail State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	Kettlebail Road Tully, NY 13159	Encompasses 588 acres of densely wooded forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Keuka College	Educational	Educational Institution	Yates	141 Central Avenue Keuka Park, NY 14478	Founded in 1890, this private college is located on the western shore of Keuka Lake. The college highlights experiential learning and pre-professional education.	Educational Institution	Yes		Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Keuka Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Yates, Schuyler, Steuben	Varied	19.6 miles known for its "crooked" shape similar to Italy's Lake Como; one of the only lakes in the country that flows both north and south.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Keuka Lake Outlet Trail	Recreational	Trail	Yates	Varied	The Keuka Outlet Trail connects the historical lakeside village of Penn Yan on Keuka Lake with Dresden on Seneca Lake. Though a short rail-trail, just seven miles, it has a unique heritage that blends natural wonder with industrial archaeology. The trail follows alongside Keuka (KYOO-ka) Lake Outlet (technically a stream) which physically connects Keuka Lake to Seneca Lake in the east, the only two Finger Lakes in New York connected by a natural waterway. Developed along the outlet between Keuka Lake and Seneca Lake include mill sites and mills, the canal, the railroad, and the lake waterfronts.		Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Keuka Lake State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Yates	3560 Pepper Road Keuka Park, NY 14478	Located in the heart of wine country, this park offers views of vineyard-covered slopes and views of Kekua Lake.	New York State Park	Yes	The park offers 150 tent and trailer sites, a swim beach, boat launch, picnic shelters, and hiking trails.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Keuka Lake Wine Trail	Recreational	Trail	Steuben	Varied	The first bonded winery was established in 1860 in the Keuka Lake region – visitors can attend wine trail events and experience a variety of wineries along this trail.	None	Yes	Wine tasting, events, etc.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
King Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tioga	299-87 Andersen Hill Road Richford, NY 13835	This 161-acre preserve is off the beaten path and includes young hardwood forest, mature forest, and a tributary of the Owego Creek. The land was donated by Robert and Mary King in December 2001.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Kingsbury Woods Conservation Area	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	64-144 Jersey Hill Road Ithaca, NY 14850	This 48-acre site protect over 6,000 feet along the upper portion of Lick Brook in Ithaca. The land was donated in 2008 by Sheela Kingsbury.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Kodak Center	Cultural	Venue	Monroe	200 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615	Sprawling complex featuring live music, comedy, and theater productions on multiple stages.	None	Yes		Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies

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Labrador Hollow Unique Area	Natural	Unique Area	Cortland, Onondago	Labrador Road Tully, NY 13159	Located in the towns of Truxton and Fabius.	New York State Unique Area	Yes	Paddling, fishing, hiking, hunting and trapping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Lake Como	Natural	Lake	Cayuga	Summerhill, NY	Small, weedy lake located in Cayuga County in the Town of Summerhill.	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Yes	Fishing, boat access, trails	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Lake George Association Floating Classroom	Educational	Educational Institution	Warren	Lower Amherst St, Lake George, NY 12845	The LGA Floating Classroom is a hands-on aquatic learning center for all ages.	Educational Institution	Yes		Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Lake Shore Marshes State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Wayne	Sodus Access Trail North Rose, NY 14516	This wildlife management area includes 6,179 acres spread across seven separate units that are bounded on the north by Lake Ontario. Much of the land consists of wetland habitat and adjacent uplands.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Lamoka Lake	Cultural	Archeological site	Schulyer	Near Tyrone, NY	The Lamoka Lake archeological site provided the first clear evidence of an Archaic hunting and gathering culture in the Northeastern United States, dating back to circa 3,500 BCE.	National Historic Landmark	No		Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportations; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Landmark Theater	Historic	Performing Arts	Onondaga	362 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202	The Landmark Theatre and its role in the history of central New York, architectural design and our nation's culture has been well documented in a wide variety of industries. The Syracuse treasure is known for its historical and cultural significance.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	The Landmark Theater hosts a variety of performing arts	Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Letchworth State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Livingston, Wyoming	1 Letchworth State Park Castile, NY 14427	Known as the Grand Canyon of the East, Letchworth State Park encompasses the Genesee River as it roars through the gorge over three major waterfalls. Also contains various statues and monuments such as a statue of Mary Jemison.	New York State Park	Yes	The park includes 66 miles of hiking trails, a nature center, bird conservation area, and performing arts programs.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Lime Hollow Nature Center	Natural	Nature Preserve	Cortland	338 McLean Rd, Cortland, NY 13045	The preserve encompasses 472 acres of rolling hills, shallow glacial valleys (kame-and-kettle topography), forests, fields, streams, and marl ponds. The nature center includes 12 miles of trails in addition to public nature programs and adventure day camps for youth.	None	Yes	Open every day	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
Lincoln Hills Farms	Economic	Business	Ontario	3792 NY-247, Canandaigua, NY 14424	An event and performance venue.	None	Yes	Music, dinners, festivals, events	Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	2406-2526 W Danby Road Spencer, NY 14883	This preserve includes 537 acres of lakes, forests, meadows, brushland, gorges, streams, and wetlands. Together with the Cornell Institute for Research in Chemical Ecology, one of the Land Trust's goals for this preserve was to make it the world's first temperate-zone preserve for research in biodiversity and chemical ecology. A portion (about 36 acres) of the preserve was given to the Finger Lakes Land Trust by Tompkins County and the remainder has been donated or purchased from private landowners.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
The Little Theatre	Cultural	Theatre		240 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14604	A mix of indie and foreign films, rotating art displays, and music in a 1929 theatre with a casual café.		Yes	Music, film	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Lock 32 State Canal Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Monroe	2759 Clover Street Pittsford, NY 14534	Located on the Erie Canal, this park offers picnic areas and includes lock #32 on the canal.	New York State Park	Yes	Located on the Erie Canal Bike Trail. Offers picnic areas	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Lodi Point State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Seneca	8403 Old Lake Road Lodi, NY 14860	This 12-acre park primarily provides boating access to Seneca Lake.	New York State Park	Yes	Boating access to Seneca Lake	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Logan Hill Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tioga	124 Logan Hill Road Candor, NY 13743	This 285-acre preserve borders Catatonk Creek and provides habitat in young and old forests, grassland and meadows, an elevated wetland, and vernal pools. This preserve was the first ever conservation easement held by the Land Trust, donated by Betsy and Dick Darlington in 1990. The 285 acres of the preserve was officially donated to the Land Trust in February of 2015 and another 15 acres remain protected through a conservation easement.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Long Branch at Onondaga Lake Park	Recreational	Onondaga County Park	Onondaga	106 Lake Drive Liverpool, New York 13088	In 1882, Ben and George Maurer purchased the land and developed Long Branch Amusement Park. The park offered various attractions that were family oriented. In 1912, Long Branch suffered extensive damage. Ben Maurer rebuilt the park which was to survive for another 26 years before its final demise in 1938.	Onondaga County Park	Yes	Long Branch Park, located at the northern end of Onondaga Lake Park, is made up of three reserved shelters/areas and a 100 ft, sledding hill. Major annual events held here include the Scottish Games, the Down Syndrome Buddy Walk and more.	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Long Point State Park-Finger Lakes	Recreational	New York State Park	Cayuga	2063 Lake Road Aurora, NY 13026	The park sits on Long Point, a peninsula jutting into Lake Chautauqua. The day-use park includes a marina and thickly wooded areas.	New York State Park	Yes	Boat launch, playground, picnic areas, fishing and lake access, 4.5 miles of hiking trails	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Many Roads to Freedom	Educational	NPS Affiliate Program	Monroe	Rochester Public Library, 115 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14604	The Rochester Public Library-Local History Division (RPL-LHD) designed an online exhibit titled "Many Roads to Freedom." The program is recognized as a de factor history center for the region.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Exhibits available online	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Maple Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Chemung	Pryne Road Chemung, NY 14825	Encompasses 604 acres with limited development.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Mark Twain State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Chemung	201 Middle Road Horseheads, NY 14845	Named after the 19th-century author who spent summers in the area.	New York State Park	Yes	The park offers hunting, cross-country skiing, and the Soaring Eagles Golf Course.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Martin Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Schuyler	2710 Charles Road Odessa, NY 14869	This site used to be a Christmas tree farm and therefore has many coniferous trees on the property. This site was also donated by Gene and Joan Lane in 1993 and named after two of their grandchildren.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Matilda Joslyn Gage House	Educational	Museum	Onondaga	210 E. Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066	The museum preserves and interprets the story of Matilda Joslyn Gage, a progressive visionary of women's rights and human liberation and an often-unacknowledged leader who worked with others to lead political action of the 19th century woman suffrage movement in the United States.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Open Monday through Friday, the first and last Saturday of every month. Self-guided tours available	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements

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Maxon Creek State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	6499-6101 Pease Hill Road Truxton, NY 13158	Sometimes referred to as Pease Hill, this state forest encompasses 905 acres. The forest includes four small streams that are part of the Tioughnioga River watershed.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
McCarthy Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	Addison, NY 14801	Encompasses 794 acres with limited development.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
McLean Bogs	Natural	National Natural Landmark	Tompkins	Dryden, NY	The approximately 81-acre McLean Bogs National Natural Landmark contains two kettle bogs—one acidic and one alkaline—and the surrounding woodland which is one of the best examples of a northern deciduous forest in New York. The site was donated to Cornell University in the 1930s and designated a NNL in 1973.	National Natural Landmark	No	Cornell Botanical Gardens currently manages the site and supports ongoing scientific research. Access is restricted, owner permission required.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Meads Creek State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	Campbell, New York	Encompasses 1,452 acres with limited development.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Memorial Day Museum	Educational, Historic	Museum	Seneca	35 East Main Street Waterloo, NY 13165	The museum, located within a historic house, includes exhibits about the birth of Memorial Day in Waterloo, NY in 1866.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Open Memorial Day through Labor Day	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Mendon Ponds Park	Natural	National Natural Landmark	Monroe	95 Douglas Road Honeoye Falls, NY 14472	The approximately 2,500-acre Mendon Ponds Park contains unique glacially created features including kames, eskers, esker fans, kettle holes, erratics, sphagnum moss peat bogs, and ponds. The National Natural Landmark, designated in 1967, sits within the towns of Mendon and Pittsford and is preserved as a Monroe County park.	National Natural Landmark and County Park	Yes	Mendon Ponds Park is the largest park in Monroe County and offers many recreational facilities and opportunities including hiking, fishing, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Michigan Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	Michigan Hill Road Richford, NY 13835	Encompasses 1,180 acres of land. There are no formal trails, but hiking is permitted unless otherwise posted.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, boating, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Military Museum at Sampson State Park/ Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery	Educational	Museum	Seneca	6096 State Route 96A, Romulus, NY 14541	This complex of military museums was created by members of the Sampson WWII Veterans organization and was a military base. The Sampson Naval Training Station and Sampson Air Force Base were temporary homes to over 400,000 US servicemen during the 1940s and 1950s.	New York State Park	Yes	Open to the public	Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Montezuma Audubon Center	Natural	Nature Center	Cayuga	2295 NY-89, Savannah, NY 13146	Preserve located north of Montezuma Wildlife Refuge with ample opportunities for hiking and birding.	None	Yes	Open Tuesday - Saturday with trail hours from dusk until dawn	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Montezuma Marshes National Natural Landmark	Natural	National Natural Landmark	Seneca	3395 US Route 20 Seneca Falls, NY 13148	This landmark, designated in May 1973, is divided into two areas: the Main Pool marsh and the Swamp Woods Natural Area. The Main Pool marsh is representative of conditions of the original marsh in which broad expanses of cattail marsh were interspersed with old river channels and ponds. Swamp Woods Natural Area is an unusual stand of undisturbed mature swamp woodland. This approximately 2,000-acre landmark is part of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.	National Natural Landmark	Yes	Outdoor facilities and a visitor center are open to the public daily.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge	Natural	National Wildlife Refuge	Seneca	3395 US Route 20 Seneca Falls, NY 13148	One of the best examples of undisturbed swamp woodlands in New England, the US Fish and Wildlife Service-managed national refuge is a significant spot along the Atlantic Flyway, a route taken by many migratory birds and waterfowl.	National Wildlife Refuge	Yes	Outdoor facilities and a visitor center are open to the public daily; Esker Brook and South Spring Pool trails are closed annually November 1 – mid-December.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Montour Falls Historic District	Historic	Historic District	Schuyler	Montour Falls Village, Schuyler County, NY 14865	The district includes 24 mid and late nineteenth century structures well known for their architecture.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Dependent on building	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Montrose Turnpike	Historic	Historic Road	Tioga	Owego, NY	The Montrose Turnpike beginning in Owego was the fastest route (by stagecoach) to New York (Newark, NJ) from the Finger Lakes.	None	Yes	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation
Moosewood Restaurant	Historic	Historic District	Tompkins	215 N Cayuga St, Ithaca, NY 14850			Yes	Open to the public	Agricultural Traditions; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Morgan Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Onondaga, Cortland	Spruce Pond, Herlihy Road Tully, NY 13159	This is a popular state forest because of its miles of trails and accessibility from both Syracuse and Cortland.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, paddling, fishing, biking, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Morgan Monument	Historic	Monument	Genesee	65 Harvester Ave, Batavia, NY 14020	Located in the historic Batavia Cemetery, the Morgan Monument was placed to honor Captain William Morgan, an anti-masonic icon.		Yes	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Moss Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	7915-7521 Iris Hill Road Savona, NY 14879	This 1,815-acre forest shares a common boundary with Birdseye Hollow State Forest and has limited development.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, camping, snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Mount Hope Cemetery	Historic	Historic Site	Monroe	1133 Mount Hope Ave, Rochester, NY 14620	Mt. Hope cemetery is the final resting place of abolitions and figures associated with UGRR. Rochester was a hub for UGRR activity due to its proximity to Canada and access to waterways.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes		Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area	Recreational	Recreation Area	Livingston	6103 Visitor Center Rd, Mount Morris, NY 14510	Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area is a major flood control project and public park located on the Genesee River.	Recreation Area	Yes	Hiking, picnic areas, biking, snowshoeing, interpretive programs	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Mount Washington State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	8100-8156 Mt Washington Argus Hill Road Bath, NY 14810	This 440-acre site has limited development and offers rustic recreational opportunities.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Muller Field Station	Educational	Educational Institution	Ontario	6455 County Road 36, Honeoye, NY 14471	Located near the southern end of Honeoye Lake, the Muller Field Station provides field-based education for academic programs, laboratory experiences, community outreach, and the opportunity to participate in or observe local research projects; part of Finger Lakes Community College.	Educational Institution	Yes	In person activities vary by season	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Museum of the Earth	Educational	Museum	Tompkins	1259 Trumansburg Road Ithaca, NY 14850	Established in 2003 by the Paleontological Research Institution to provide the public with a unique opportunity to learn about 4.5 billion years of history from the Earth's origin to the present day.	None	Yes	Open Saturday - Monday	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
Mushroom House	Historic	Historic Landmark	Monroe	142 Park Rd, Pittsford, NY 14534	Residential building with unique architecture.	Historic Landmark	No	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation
Namgyal Monastery	Cultural	Religious Center	Tompkins	201 Tibet Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850	Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies is the North American Seat of the Personal Monastery of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.	Religious Center	Yes	N/A	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum	Historic	Museum	Otsego	25 Main St, Cooperstown, NY 13326	The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is a history museum and hall of fame operated by private interests.	Museum	Yes	Museum exhibits	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
National Soaring Museum	Educational	Museum	Chemung	51 Soaring Hill Dr, Harris Hill, Elmira, NY 14903	An aviation museum that preserves the history of motorless flight. The museum presents the heritage of motorless flight, and promotes through education, a greater knowledge of soaring, aeronautics, and related physical sciences.	None	Yes	Open to the public	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovations and Lasting Legacies

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National Warplane Museum	Educational	Museum	Livingston	3489 Big Tree Ln Geneseo, NY 14454	Museum dedicated to the preservation of WWII, Korean War and Vietnam era military aircraft, equipment, and the stories of those who served.	None	Yes	Offer rides, airshows, and a museum	Innovations and Lasting Legacies
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station		Research	Ontario	630 West W North St, Geneva, NY 14456	The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station is an agricultural experiment station operated by the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University	None			Agricultural Traditions; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
New York State Barge Canal	Historic	Canalway	Multiple	Varied	The canal includes 450-miles of navigation channels along the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca Canals, which remain in service today for vessels travelling between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes.	National Historic Landmark			Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
New York State Craft Beer Trail	Recreational	Trail	Multiple	Varied	A craft beer trail across various counties with over 100 breweries and brewpubs on the list.	None	Yes	Self-guided tours of breweries and brewpubs	Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Newark Valley Historical Society	Educational	Organization	Tioga	PO Box 222 Newark Valley, NY 13811	The society preserves and interprets Newark Valley, Northern Tioga County, and New York. It administers two historic sites (Bement-Billings Farmstead and NV Railroad Depot) and a nature trail.	None	Yes	Varies	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Newfield State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tompkins	Bull Hill Road Newfield, NY 14867	This 1,552-acre forest is connected to the Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area. There are no formal hiking trails, but hiking is permitted unless otherwise posted.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Newton Battlefield	Recreational	New York State Park	Chemung	2346 County Rd 60, Elmira, NY 14901	The Battle of Newtown was the most significant engagement of the Sullivan Campaign, the largest offensive campaign of the American Revolutionary War.	National Historic Landmark; Newton Battlefield State Park	Yes	Visitors to the park can hike on the short trail network, camp in the developed campground, and access nearby public boat launches.	Historic Connections and Transportation
Newton Battlefield State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Chemung	2346 County Road 60 Elmira, NY 14901	This historic park includes the site of the Revolutionary War Battle of Newton and Sullivan's Monument.	New York State Park	Yes	Cabins, campsites, showers, dumping stations, picnic tables, and scenery	Historic Connections and Transportation
Nick Tahoe Hots		Restaurant		320 W Main St, Rochester, NY 14608	Landmark eatery, founded in 1918, celebrated for its "Garbage Plate," a mash-up of meats, fries, salads, and sauces.		Yes	N/A	Agricultural Traditions; Innovation and Lasting Legacies

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North Country National Scenic Trail	Recreational	Recreation	Multiple	Multiple	From bird watching to backpacking the North Country National Scenic Trail provides visitors an opportunity to enjoy many rewarding experiences as it winds its way across eight northern states. Connecting a host of natural, historic, and cultural areas from valleys to hilltops, cities to small towns, and everything in between.	National Scenic Trail	Yes	Walking, hiking, running, birdwatching, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
North Street Meeting House	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	Brick Church Rd, Aurora, NY 13026	The North Street Friends Meetinghouse is significant for its association with abolition, the Underground Railroad, and Women's Rights.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site; National Register of Historic Places	N/A	N/A	Social Ideals Translated to National Movements
Northern Montezuma State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Seneca, Wayne, Cayuga	1475 Morgan Road Savannah, NY 13146	This management area is part of the 50,000-acre Montezuma Wetlands Complex, which is recognized as being a globally significant, important bird staging and breeding area within the Atlantic Flyway. The area provides breeding habitat for hundreds of wildlife species, including many rare and endangered species and includes the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center	Educational	Museum	Cayuga	25 South St, Auburn, NY 13021	New York State's progressive history supporting equality comes to life through interactive displays at the Equal Rights Heritage Center. Experience the creative ways New Yorkers organized to stand for justice and learn about the key contributors from the 1800s to modern day.	None	Yes	Open every day	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Oakley Corners State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	Owego, New York 13827	This state forest includes a multiple use trail system that includes 13 miles of trails. The trail system is a cooperative effort between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, and volunteers from the Volunteer Stewardship Program.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, paddling, biking, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Oakwood Cemetery	Historic	Cemetery	Onondaga	940 Comstock Ave Syracuse NY 13210, USA	Oakwood Cemetery is a historic cemetery located on 160 acres of land in Syracuse, New York (1859). Created by New York City landscape gardener, Howard Daniels (1815-1863), to conform to the then-popular picturesque ideal in landscape design. Daniels was one of the country's early and most important landscape architects.		Yes	Monday–Friday: 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Saturday: 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Old Homer Village Historic District	Historic	Historic District	Cortland	Homer Village Hall is located at 31 North Main Street, Homer NY 13077	The Old Homer Village Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The village, a grouping of residential, commercial, religious, and governmental structures, contains a wide variety of architectural styles as well as a cultural landscape curiosity, the Village Green, a New England phenomenon, transplanted to central New York. The Old Homer Village Historic District encompasses Main Street from 73 North Main Street to 105 South Main Street on the east and from 52 North Main to 102 South Main on the west side.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	NA	Historic Connections and Transportation
Onondaga Historical Association Museum	Educational	Museum	Onondaga	311-321 Montgomery St, Syracuse, NY 133202	The Onondaga Historical Association Museum (OHA) is the primary history agency in Syracuse and tells the story of the city and the Underground Railroad. The collection includes a multimedia exhibit with various church records, letters, newspaper articles, and first-person accounts.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Exhibits open to the public	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Ontario County Courthouse	Historic	Courthouse	Ontario	27 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424	The Ontario County Courthouse is located in Canandaigua, New York, United States. The United States v. Susan B. Anthony trial took place in this courthouse in 1873. It is a contributing property to the Canandaigua Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Public building	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Ontario County Historical Museum	Educational, Historic	Museum	Ontario	55 North Main Street Canandaigua, NY 14424	The museum is housed in a Georgian Revival building designed initially as a library by famous architect, Claude Bragdon, and constructed in 1914. The Ontario County Historical Society houses their archives, rare documents collections, and research library within the museum.		Yes	Tuesday – Saturday	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Ossian State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Livingston	Canaseraga, New York 14822	The 1,303-acre forest offers a rustic recreational experience and has little development. The site shares a boundary with the Rattlesnake Hill State Wildlife Management Area.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, paddling, fishing, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Otisco Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Onondaga	Varied	Eastern most Finger Lake, serves as a source of public drinking water for Syracuse and Onondaga County.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Otisco Lake Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Onondaga	1729-1585 Willowdale Road Skaneateles, NY 13152	This 36-acre preserve is located on the west side of Otisco Lake and is the Land Trust's first conservation area in this watershed area. The site was acquired from the Stopyro family in 2015 through a generous gift from an anonymous donor.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Owasco Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Cayuga	Varied	Sixth largest lake at 11 miles; shallower depth provides warmer waters for summer swimming.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Owego Central Historic District	Historic	Historic Site	Tioga	Owego Village, Tioga County, NY 13827	The historic district includes many buildings that played a critical role in the history of New York. Primarily, Owego played an important role in the development of government and commercial activity.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Varies	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Owego Riverwalk	Recreation	Public Park	Tioga	132 Front St, Owego, NY 13827	The Owego Riverwalk winds along the Susquehanna River and under the Court Street Bridge. It connects Draper Park and Ahwaga Park behind the historic buildings on the Village of Owego's Riverrow and offers scenic views and a chance to spot waterfowl, eagles, and river wildlife.	Public Park	Yes	Walk, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation
Painted Post-Erwin Museum at the Depot	Historic	Museum	Steuben	277 Steuben St, Painted Post, NY 14870	Local history museum housed in a 19th-century railway depot showcasing diverse exhibits and programs.	Museum	Yes	Exhibits	Historic Connections and Transportation
Papish Pond Multiple Use Area	Recreational	Multiple Use Area	Cortland	Cincinnatus, New York 13040	The multiple use area is adjacent to Gee Brook State Forest and offers many different recreational opportunities.	New York State Multiple Use Area	Yes	Hiking, camping, paddling, fishing, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Park Church	Historic	Church	Chemung	208 W Gray St, Elmira, NY 14901	The Park Church runs for an entire downtown block of Elmira, NY. Built in the 1870s and designed by Horatio Nelson White, the building has unique architecture of limestone and brick.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Southern Tier architectural point of inspiration	Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Parker Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Steuben	7048-7090 Velie Road Savona, NY 14879	This 170-acre site includes abandoned fields, shrubland, young forest, and mature forest. The preserve was donated to the Land Trust in 1993 by Gene and Joan Lane and named after their grandsons.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Parrott Hall	Historic	Historic Site	Ontario	Parrott Hall, Geneva, NY 14456	Parrott Hall is a historic home, built in the early 1850s and consist of a 3-story main block and 2-story addition in the Italianate villa style. The original home of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York.	National Register of Historic Places; State Historic Site	No	N/A	Agricultural Traditions; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Pigtail Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	Hungry Hollow Road Bath, NY 14810	The 998-acre site has limited development and shares a boundary with Urbana State Forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Pinnacle State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Steuben	1904 Pinnacle Road Addison, NY 14801	The park offers views of the Canisteo River Valley, Harris Hill and the village of Addison.	New York State Park	Yes	Recreational amenities include picnic tables, fishing on Levi Pond, hunting access, 11 miles of hiking trails, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Plymouth Woods Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Chemung	1799-1 Kneale Road Pine City, NY 14871	The 88-acre site includes mature oak-hickory forest, a small ravine, and a wetland. A well-known Elmira physician by the name of Dr. Edward Grandt donated the land to the Land Trust in 2003.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Potato Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tompkins	226-224 Blackman Hill Road Brooktondale, NY 14817	This 915-acre unit includes a 6-acre pond in the northern portion of the forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Pratt's Falls County Park	Natural	County park	Onondaga	7671 Pratts Falls Rd, Manlius, NY 13104	This geological wonder, formed by retreating glaciers, was the site of Onondaga County's first mill operation in 1796.	County Park	Yes	Visitors can participate in archery, picnicking, and walking/hiking trails	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Historic Connections and Transportation
Prison City Pub and Brewery	Economic	Business	Cayuga	28 State St, Auburn, NY 13021	Pub and Brewery in Auburn, NY in the heart of the Finger Lakes region. On-premise brewery and kitchen	None	Yes	Open	Agricultural Traditions; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Pulteney Square	Historic	Historic Site	Steuben	26 Mechanic St, Hammondsport, NY 14840	Pulteney Square Historic District is a national historic district which includes 15 contributing buildings, a bandstand, a village green, and three secondary buildings. Dates from the 1820s to 1920s.	National Historic District	Yes	Walking	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Historic Connections and Transportation

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Rattlesnake Hill State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Livingston, Allegany	Ebert Road Dalton, NY 14836	Located about 8 miles west of Dansville, this 5,100-acre management area consists of upland habitat. The management area is named after the Timber Rattlesnake which was historically found in more remote sections of the "Hill." The area was purchased under the Federal Resettlement Administration in the 1930s and was turned over to the Department of Environmental Conservation as a wildlife management area.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Regional Aviation History Museum	Historic	Museum	Onondaga	1000 Col Eileen Collins Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13212	Opened in November 2018, the Regional Aviation History Museum offers visitors a unique experience, covering the history of Onondaga County's transportation and aviation history through the use of objects, photos, video, 3-D models, flight trackers, and more.		Yes	Open	Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Robert H. Treman State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Tompkins	105 Enfield Falls Road Ithaca, NY 14850	The 1,110-acre park includes winding trails through the Enfield Glen gorge, a stream-fed swimming pool, cabins, campsites, and hunting and fishing access.	New York State Park	Yes	Hiking trails, stream-fed swimming pool, cabins, campsites, and hunting and fishing access.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Robinson Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga, Tompkins, Cortland	New York, 13835	The forest encompasses 1,938 acres in three counties.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Rob's Trail Preserve	Natural	The Nature Conservancy Property	Ontario	Old Bald Hill Rd S, Springwater, NY 14560	Rob's Trail Preserve is a collection of memorial trails nestled among the high ridges and rolling hills of the Finger Lakes. It contains several types of habitats, from old-field herbaceous plants to mature hardwood forest.	The Nature Conservancy Property	Yes	Open to the public from dawn to dusk; trails; wildlife	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Rock Creek State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	3601 State Rte 248 Greenwood, NY 14839	The site encompasses 704 acres. There are no designated recreation trails, but there are several department roads, cleared gas pipelines, and old skid roads that are available to explore.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Rose Hill Mansion	Historic	Historic Site	Seneca	543 South Main Street, Geneva, NY 14456	Built in 1837, Rose Hill is a "monumental scale" Greek Revival mansion overlooking Seneca Lake in Geneva, NY.	National Historic Landmark	Yes	Open for seasonal guided tours where guests can see 20 restored and refurbished rooms that represent life at the farm during the 1850s.	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation

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Round Lake	Natural	National Natural Landmark	Onondaga	Manlius, NY 13066	This approximately 100-acre landmark is part of the 1,735-acre Green Lakes State Park. The lake, designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1973, includes a meromictic lake surrounded by 20 acres of maple-basswood rich mesic old-growth forest.	National Natural Landmark within a state park	Yes	Visitors can rent rowboats or kayaks during the summer months to explore the lake. The state park also operates campsites, an 18-hole golf course that is open to snowshoeing during the winter and 15 miles of year-round trails.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Roy H. Park Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	Dryden, New York	The preserve includes 241 acres and borders Yellow Barn State Forest, Hammond Hill State Forest, and the Cornell Old 600 Natural Area, making it an important piece in a combined 8,000 acres of protected lands. The preserve includes Six Mile Creek, which is the source for Ithaca's drinking water.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Rush Oak Openings Unique Area	Natural	Unique Area	Monroe	250 Honeoye Falls Five Points Road Rush, NY 14543	This 230-acre site protects a rare plant community commonly referred to as an "oak opening" or "oak savannah." Additional habitats protected in this area include oak woodlands, limestone woodlands, wetlands, and successional old field communities.	New York State Unique Area	Yes	Hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Saint John's Episcopal Church	Historic	Church	Schuyler	4938 Co Rte 14, Odessa, NY 14869	Incorporated in 1866, the quaint wood frame structure reflected the rural tenor of the surrounding countryside. Additions were built in the 1950s and 60s.		Yes	The Parish Office is open from 9 a.m. until 12 noon Monday through Thursday.	Agricultural Traditions
Salisbury-Pratt Homestead	Historic	Homestead	Cortland	Intersection of Route 281 and Cold Brook Road, Little York, New York	The Salisbury-Pratt Homestead was used as a station on the Underground Railroad.	None	No	Private residence	Agricultural Traditions; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Salmon Creek Bird Sanctuary	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	898-712 Salmon Creek Road Lansing, NY 14882	One of New York State's 127 "Important Bird Areas," as identified by the National Audubon Society. The sanctuary is owned by the Finger Lakes Land Trust and protects 33 acres in Tompkins County.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	Open daily dawn to dusk for quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Salt Museum	Educational	Museum	Onondaga	106 Lake Dr, Liverpool, NY 13088	Collection of exhibits that showcase the development of the salt industry that provided Syracuse and the nation with salt.	None	Yes	Open May to October	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Historic Connections and Transportation
Sampson State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Seneca	6040-6144 NY 96A Romulus, NY 14541	Along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, the park offers over 300 campsites and a marina with over 100 boat slips. The park also provides hiking trails and hunting and fishing access.	New York State Park	Yes	Camping, marina, hiking, hunting and fishing access	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Samuel and Elizabeth Cuyler House Site	Historic	Historic Site	Wayne	B. Forman Park, Wayne County Parks and Recreation Pultneyville, NY 14489	The Cuyler family were descendants of major Dutch families in New York and kept the most important Underground Railroad station on Lake Ontario's shore between Oswego and Rochester. They sent freedom seekers to Canada on steamboats operated by a relative.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Open	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Sapsucker Woods	Natural	New York State Wildlife Site	Tompkins	Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850	220-acre sanctuary for learning and discovery with wooded trails, bird-focused interpretive materials.	New York State Wildlife Site	Yes	Visitor center with indoor bird observation areas, displays, lectures, interpretive programs, extensive print and audio nature library, trails, boardwalks	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Schuyler County Historical Society	Educational	Museum	Schuyler	108 N. Catharine St, Montour Falls, NY 14865	The Society maintains three properties and is headquartered at the Brick Tavern Museum. This location, in addition to the Wickham Rural Life Center, includes exhibits related to the county's history.	None	Yes	Open Tuesday - Saturday	Agricultural Traditions
Sciencenter	Educational	Museum	Tompkins	601 1st St, Ithaca, NY 14850	Sciencenter is a hands-on science museum founded in 1983.	Museum	Yes	Museum exhibits and activities	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape
Seabreeze Amusement Park	Recreational	Recreation	Monroe	4600 Culver Road Rochester, NY 14622	Family run since 1879, this amusement park located by Lake Ontario and is home to one of the oldest working roller coasters.	None	Yes	Open seasonally	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Second Street Cemetery	Historic	Cemetery	Chemung	280 W 2nd St, Elmira, NY 14901	This cemetery serves as the final resting place for many soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War. Several of the people buried at this cemetery are historically significant, particularly to the town of Elmira.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Open to visitors	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated to National Movements
Seneca Army Depot	Recreational	Recreation	Seneca	Fayette Rd, Romulus, NY	Covering 10,587 acres, the Seneca Army Depot is a former military explosive disposal facility, currently monitored by the EPA, and home to wild white deer.	Superfund National Priorities List	Varied	Conservation and recreation, wildlife	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Seneca Art and Culture Center at Ganondagan	Cultural	Cultural Center	Ontario	7000 Co Rd 41, Victor, NY 14564	The Seneca Art & Culture Center fulfills a vision of a permanent, year-round interpretive facility at Ganondagan telling the story of the Seneca and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) contributions to art, culture and society for more than 2,000 years to the present day. Part of the Ganondagan State Historic Site.	State Historic Site	Yes	Interpretive exhibits	Agricultural traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movement; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Seneca Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Schuyler	Varied	38 miles long, the deepest lake at a maximum depth of 618 feet and largest lake by volume.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Seneca Lake Scenic Byway	Recreational	Scenic Byway	Seneca	Varied	Seneca Lake Scenic Byway connects Watkins Glen, Hector, and Lodi. Over the 19-mile route, visitors can see landscapes shaped by the last Ice Age, the southern portion of Seneca Lake, farms, and historic sites.	New York Scenic Byway	Yes	Recreational driving and sight-seeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Seneca Lake State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Seneca	1 Lake Front Drive Geneva, Ny 14456	This day-use park offers a swimming beach on Seneca Lake, boat docs, playground facilities, nature trails, and access to fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing.	New York State Park	Yes	Swimming beach, boat docs, playground, fishing, hunting, and cross-country skiing access	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Seneca Lake Wine Trail	Recreational	Trail	Schuyler	Varied	The Seneca Lake Wine Trail was formed in 1986 to attract visitors to experience the area's history, beauty, and production of world-class wines. It is the largest and most active wine trail in New York.	None	Yes	Wine tasting, events, etc.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry	Educational	Museum	Seneca	89 Fall Street Seneca Falls, NY 13148	Informs visitors on how the Seneca River and the Cayuga-Seneca Canal supported the rise of industry and fostered cultural development, aiding the spread of social reform movements.	None	Yes	Serves more than 18,000 visitors a year	Historic Connections and Transportation
Seward House Museum	Educational, Historic	Museum	Cayuga	33 South Street Auburn, NY 13021	The museum, located in the historic home of the influential 19th-century politician William H. Seward, displays original furnishings, artwork and personal belongings owned by the Seward Family.	National Historic Landmark	Yes	Open by guided tour only	Social Ideals Translated to National Movements
Seymour Library	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	176-178 Genesee St, Auburn, NY 13021	The Seymour Library was founded in 1876 and has served as a historic structure for Auburn since its construction. It was eventually moved in 1903 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Open	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Shequaga Falls	Natural	Waterfall	Schuyler	109 S Genesee St, Montour Falls, NY	Also known as Montour Falls, Shequaga Falls is a 165 ft waterfall located right in the heart of Montour Falls, NY. Has a small park with waterfall views.	None	Yes	Views of waterfall, walking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Shindagin Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tompkins, Tioga	370-610 Brearly Hill Road Brooktondale, NY 14817	This state forest encompasses 5,318 acres.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, biking, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Shortsville Budd Park	Natural	City Park	Ontario	37 Water St, Shortsville, NY 14548	A park along the Canandaigua Outlet.	City Park	Yes	Playground, baseball field, basketball and tennis courts	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Skā•noñh Great Law of Peace Center	Educational	Museum	Onondaga	6680 Onondaga Lake Parkway Liverpool, New York 13088	Great Law of Peace Center is a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Heritage Center focused on telling the story of the Native peoples of central New York. The history is told through the lens of the Onondaga Nation and covers topics such as Creation, European Contact, The Great Law of Peace, and more.	None	Yes	Guided tours are available; the center is open Wednesday through Sunday	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovations and Lasting Legacies
Skaneateles Lake	Natural	Finger Lake	Onondaga, Cayuga, Cortland	Varied	Sixteen miles long, considered one of the cleanest lakes in the United States.	None	Yes	Recreational	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Slocum and Hannah Howland House	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	1781 Sherwood Rd, Sherwood, Cayuga, NY 13147	One of the most active Underground Railroad way stations in central New York, the Howlands helped freedom seekers escape to Canada and helped four African American families settle in New York.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	No	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Smith Opera House	Historic	Historic Site	Ontario	82 Seneca Street Geneva, NY 14456	One of the oldest operating performance theaters in the United States. The Smith Opera House, built in 1894 and designed by architects Joseph Pierce and Henry Bickford, has played host to greats. The theater was renovated during the 1930s, filling the interior space with a modern baroque motif.			Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Sonnenburg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park	Historic	Museum and Park	Ontario	151 Charlotte St, Canandaigua, NY 14424	Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion preserves the living collection of nine historic gardens plus interprets and promotes the life, times and legacy of Canandaigua's Thompson family estate.	State Historic Park	Yes	Open to the public	Agricultural Traditions
Sonyea State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Livingston	Union Corners Road Mt Morris, NY 14510	The forest encompasses 922 acres and shares a boundary with the Groveland Correctional facility. There is little development and rustic recreational opportunities.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
South Bradford State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	6334-6398 Dennis Road Savona, NY 14879	The 1,819-acre site features a portion of the Finger Lakes Hiking Trail. There are natural gas wellheads and pipelines in this state forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Sperr Memorial Park	Natural	Park	Chemung	75 Kahler Rd S, Elmira NY 14903	The park was created as a memorial to a New York State trooper, A. J. Sperr, who gave his life in the line of duty near this park.	Park	Yes	Walking	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Sphinx Head Tomb	Historic	Historic Building	Tompkins	900 Stewart Ave, Ithaca, NY 14850	The building is known for its unique Egyptian Revival architecture and being the residence of astronomer Carl Sagan. It is part of the Cornell Heights Historic District.	Historic Building	No		Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Skenoh Island Unique Area	Natural	Unique Area	Ontario	Canandaigua, New York 14424	This area is located on an island in the northwest corner of Canandaigua Lake and is only accessible by boat. It is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation's Bureau of Wildlife and is often referred to as a wildlife management area.	New York State Unique Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Stafford Museum of History	Cultural	Museum	Genesee	8903 NY-237, Stafford, NY 14143	The Stafford Museum of History is attached to the Town of Stafford Town Hall. It displays artifacts such as the Morganville Pottery collection.	Museum	Yes	Museum exhibits	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
State Park at the Fair	Recreational	New York State Park	Onondaga	581 State Fair Boulevard Syracuse, NY 13209	Billed as "New York's Smallest State Park, the park-like setting is open during the annual 18-day Great New York State Fair and includes exhibits highlighting state natural and historic areas.	New York State Park	Yes	Offers hands-on activities highlighting the interpretive and recreational opportunities available in the state parks and state historic sites in New York	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Steege Hill Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Chemung	Big Flats, New York	Once part of the Great Catskill Delta Plain hundreds of millions of years ago, this property was first carved by glaciers and then by running water flowing toward the Chemung River. In more recent history, poor logging practices nearly destroyed much of this 793-acre property. Thanks to an anonymous donor, this preserve is now protected, recovering, and is home to numerous trails to walk and observe the abundant wildlife.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Stevenson Forest Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	58-94 County Road 133 Ithaca, NY 14850	The 83-acre preserve includes an original 25 acres of undisturbed forest that had been in the Stevenson family since the Revolutionary War. The land was donated to the Land Trust in 1995 and the preserve expanded in 1998 and 1999 as a result of a land donation and grant purchase.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Stewart Park	Recreational	City Park	Tompkins	1 James L Gibbs Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850	Stewart Park was originally part of the James Renwick estate. It has a long history of varied use. In the past, the park contained a zoo, merry-go-round, a vaudeville theater/dance pavilion, film studio, and finally a municipal park.	City Park	Yes	Pavilions, tennis courts, playground, athletic fields, duck pond, spray pool, golf course, bird sanctuary	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Stid Hill State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area / Multiple Use Area	Ontario	5221-5201 NY-64 Canandaigua, NY 14424	Located within Ontario County, this 847-acre tract was formerly used for sheep and cattle grazing. Ganargua Creek, also known as Mud Creek, flows along Route 64 within the management area.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Stone Tolan Historic Site	Historic	Historic Site	Monroe	5 Castle Park Rochester, NY 14620	The site, built in 1792, is the oldest building in Monroe County. The interpretive site is set up to highlight the life of pioneers Oringh and Elizabeth Stone, representing the private and public activities of both a household and a rural tavern between the years of 1790 and 1820.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	School tours and open to drop-in visitors every fourth Friday of the month from April to December	Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Stony Brook State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Steuben	10820 NY-36 Dansville, NY 14437	The park features a rugged gorge in the rolling hills of the state.	New York State Park	Yes	The park offers camping and picnicking amenities, playing fields, a stream-fed pool, and three hiking trails.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Strasenburgh Planetarium	Educational	Planetarium		663 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14607	A public planetarium named after its benefactors, Edwin and Clara Strasenburgh. The first planetarium to be computer automated.	Planetarium	Yes	Stargazing, nigh sky views	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Strong Museum of Play	Educational	Museum	Monroe	One Manhattan Square Rochester, NY 14607	An interactive, collections-based museum focusing on the history and exploration of play. One of the largest museums in the United States.	None	Yes	Exhibits open to the public daily	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Sugar Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Schuyler	Watkins Glen, New York 14891	There are multiple trails that cross through this 9,085-acre state forest including the Six Nations Trail System and the Finger Lakes Hiking Trail. The site also includes the Sugar Hill Recreation Area. The site also includes a fire tower.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, day use picnic area	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Summer Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cayuga	13219-13235 NY-90 Groton, NY 13073	The site encompasses 4,419 acres of dense forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, horseback riding	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Susan B. Anthony House	Historic	Museum	Monroe	17 Madison Street, Rochester, NY 14608	The 1859, two-story Italianate house was the home of American civil rights leader Susan B. Anthony for forty years. It became the site of Anthony's 1872 arrest after voting in a presidential election and headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association after she was elected as the group's president in 1892.	National Historic Landmark	Yes	Open as a museum and house for exhibits, tours, and programs	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Sweedler and Thayer Preserves	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Tompkins	2-6 Townline Road Ithaca, NY 14850	These two preserves provide an excellent example of the Finger Lakes geologic history and ecological systems. The preserves collectively protect more than 5,000 feet bordering Lick Brook, which tumbles down multiple waterfalls as it flows to Cayuga Lake. The preserves were created in part by land donations and acquisitions from two families.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Tanglewood Nature Center	Educational	Museum	Chemung	443 Coleman Ave, Elmira, NY 14903	The nature center leads and supports education and preservation efforts in the region to achieve a heightened awareness, understanding, enjoyment, and caring for the natural environment.	None	Yes	Open Tuesdays through Fridays; offers programs for schools and groups	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Taughannock Falls State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Tompkins	1740 Taughannock Boulevard Trumansburg, NY 14886	Named after the falls that plunge 215 feet within the gorge, the park offers rim trails with spectacular views.	New York State Park	Yes	A marina, boat launch, beach and campsites are available along the shores of Cayuga Lake.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Taylor Valley State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	4885 Taylor Valley Road Cincinnatus, NY 13040	This site is also known as Seacord Hill and encompasses 4,638 acres. The Ceningo Day Use Area is located within the forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, picnic and day use area, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Teal Park	Recreational	Public Park	Chemung	500 S Main St, Horseheads, NY 14845	Teal park is a public greenspace in Horseheads, NY. The park was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and is contained within the Horseheads 1855 Extension Historic District.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Concerts, walking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Texas Hollow State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Schuyler	3532-3966 Texas Hollow Road Burdett, NY 14818	The 937-acre site provides a rustic recreational experience with little development.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, camping, fishing and paddling, snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Thomas and Elizabeth James House	Historic	Historic Site	Seneca	52 State St, Seneca Falls, NY 13148	Thomas James was born into slavery, migrated to Canada, then settled in Seneca Falls. He became a barber and a wealthy landowner, owning approximately \$15,000 of real estate in Seneca Falls.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	No	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements

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Thomas Elliot and Ann Marie Stewart Elliot House	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	31 Richardson Ave, Auburn, NY 13021	Thomas Elliott was a member of the Dover Eight, a group of slaves that escaped from Maryland. He married Ann Marie, Harriet Tubman's niece, and the two represent important Underground Railroad families and stories.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	No	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Three Bears Historical Site	Historic	Historic Site	Seneca	7175 Main St, Ovid, NY 14521	Three graduated brick buildings, Greek revival style, continuously used county courthouse complex.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation
Three Rivers State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Onondaga	Potter Road Lysander, NY 13027	Named for its proximity to the junction of the Seneca and Oneida Rivers, which form the Oswego River, this 6,607-acre management area is about 18 miles north of Syracuse. The management area consists of woodlands, open area, mowed grassland, brush, and wetlands, which provide a variety of habitat for numerous wildlife species. The federal government purchased the property in 1941 and it was acquired by New York State as surplus in 1947. Additional acreage was added under the Recreational Bond Act in the 1960s. The land was originally heavily forested but was cleared for farming in the late 1780s.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Tracy Creek State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Broome, Tioga	123-1 Crumm Road Vestal, NY 13850	There are no formal trails on this 512-acre site; however, there are extensive trails created by loggers. The site is named for Tracy Creek which flows north across the site into the Susquehanna River.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, fishing, hunting and trapping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Tracy Creek State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	6199-7003 Tracy Creek Road Cameron Mills, NY 14820	There are no designated trails at the 569-acre Tracy Creek State Forest, but the gated Department road, old skid roads, deer paths, and old farm lanes are available for hiking. Tracy Creek is a large water course and is known to flash flood occasionally and flows through the center of the forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Treleaven Wines	Economic	Business	Cayuga	658 Lake Rd, King Ferry, NY 13081	Former family grain farm turned winery; Vineyard was planted in 1984.	None	Yes	Events, wine tasting	Agricultural Traditions; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Triphammer Falls	Natural	Waterfall	Tompkins	University Ave & East Ave, Ithaca, NY 14850	Triphammer Falls is a 55-foot waterfall on Fall Creek located within the campus of Cornell University. The waterfall existed naturally but was altered substantially in order to construct a dam in the 19th century.	None	Yes	Waterfall viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Tuller Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Cortland	2755-2601 Clute Road Cortland, NY 13045	The site encompasses 2,497 acres. There is a multiple use trail system within the state forest.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, camping, biking, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, horseback riding	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Turkey Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tioga	Tubbs Hill Road Berkshire, NY 13736	This popular area encompasses 1,108 acres and includes 1.3 miles of recreational access on the Public Forest Access Road.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Turkey Ridge State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	2525 Norton Hollow Road Canisteo, NY 14823	There is little development at the 676-acre site. There are no designated recreation trails, although department roads, old ski roads, deer paths, and old farm lanes are available for hiking.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Turkey Trot Acres	Recreational	Program	Tioga	188 Tubbs Hill Rd, Candor, NY 13743	For 33 years, Turkey Trot Acres has been a nationwide destination for wild turkey hunting. The lodge provides quality hunting, dining, and overnight accommodations, as well as host special events and programs.	None	Yes	Hunting, lodging, dining	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Tutelo Park	Recreational	City Park	Tompkins	CO Rd 137, Ithaca, NY 14850	A public park with a little league field and pavilion.	City Park	Yes	Walking, baseball, picnicking	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Two Rivers State Park	Recreational	State Park	Tioga	Banzhoff Road, Waverly, NY 14892	Two Rivers State Park was established in 2005 and sits along the Tioga and Chemung county border. There are unmarked hiking and biking trails throughout the park.	New York State Park	Yes	Hiking, biking, birding, walking, running	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Union Cemetery	Historic	Cemetery	Livingston	West Lake Road, Route 256, Scottsburg, NY 14545	Cemetery is the burial place of Daniel Shays of the Shays' Rebellion.	Cemetery	Yes	N/A	Historic Connections and Transportation; Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Urbana State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	9202-9298 Runner Road Hammondsport, NY 14840	This 2,690-acre site shares a boundary with Pigtail Hollow State Forest. There is limited development.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, camping	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
VanRiper Conservation Area and Whitlock Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Seneca	6263 NY-89 Romulus, NY 14541	Located on the west side of Cayuga Lake, this conservation area and preserve provide protection and rare public access to a natural, undeveloped shoreline. Mrs. Whitlock donated 13 acres of her family's land to the Finger Lakes Land Trust in 1998. In 2011, the Land Trust purchased the 68-acre VanRiper Conservation Area nearly quadrupling the amount of protected natural shoreline.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Various	Cultural	Century & Bicentennial Farms	Onondaga, Tioga, Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Cayuga, Tompkins, Livingston, Schuyler, Chemung, Cortland, Steuben, Orleans, Yates, Seneca	Multiple	The Century Farm program began in 1937 and honors New York farms that have been in continuous operation on the same land by the same family for 100 years or more. In 2019 there were 121 Century and Bicentennial Farms within the study area, including several that were established in the 1700s.	Century Farms	Varies		Agricultural Traditions; Historic Connections and Transportation
Viticulture Center	Educational	Museum and Education Center	Cayuga	100 Empire Drive, Geneva, NY 14456	The FLCC Viticulture and Wine Center features a teaching winery, enology laboratory, aging rooms, wine storage, a crush pad, a classroom, a kitchen area, and office space. In addition, a rotating vineyard is featured next to the winery.	None	Yes	Public appointments must be made by request	Agricultural Traditions
Wadsworth Homestead	Historic	Historic Homestead	Livingston	4 South Street Geneseo NY, 14454	Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is now open for historic tours or for weddings and events. Teddy Roosevelt was a frequent visitor to the house, which was built in 1804.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Open to the public for historic tours or for private events	Historic Connections and Transportation
Waneta-Lamoka State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Schuyler	319 County Road 23 Dundee, NY 14837	This wildlife management area includes 165 acres of marsh and open water located between Waneta Lake and Lamoka Lake.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum	Educational	Museum	Cayuga	6880 NY-38A, Auburn, NY, 13021	The Agricultural and Country Living Museum features exhibits with farm and home implement tools and antiques that changed agricultural life in the United States.	None	Yes	Open every day; varying seasonal hours	Agricultural Traditions
Waterman Conservation Center	Educational	Nature Preserve	Tioga	403 Hilton Rd, Apalachin, NY 13732	The Waterman Conservation Education Center promotes conservation education and environmental literacy. The center administers nature preserves, accommodates educational groups, and hosts various events and programs.	None	Yes		Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

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Watkins Glen International	Recreational	Recreational	Schuyler	2790 County Route 16, Watkins Glen, NY 14891	An automobile racetrack that previously hosted 20 years of the Grand Prix.	None	Yes	Visitors can drive their personal vehicles around the racetrack	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Watkins Glen Original Road Course	Recreational	Road	Schuyler	Watkins Glen, NY	The first post-World War II road race was hosted on the village streets of Watkins Glen in 1948. Today, the 6.6-mile original road course is open to the public and may be driven in personal vehicles.	None	Yes	Visitors can drive their personal vehicles around the original course, now all public roads	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Watkins Glen State Park	Recreational	New York State Park	Schuyler	1009 N Franklin Street Watkins Glen, NY 14891	This park includes the 400-foot descent of the glen's stream, which generates 19 waterfalls along its course.	New York State Park	Yes	The park boasts an Olympic-size pool, campsites, picnic facilities, and fishing on Seneca Lake or Catherine Creek.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Wells Barns	Historic	Historic sites	Monroe/Livingston	Various	Wells Barns are named after John Talcott Wells, Sr., their creator and designer. He developed an ingenious truss system that strengthened the barn's interior framing system while simultaneously creating open space in the upper sections of the structure. In 1889 he received a patent for this Wells Patented Truss.	National Register of Historic Places	No	Privately owned	Agricultural Tradition; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Wells College	Educational	Educational Institution	Cayuga	170 Main Street, Aurora, NY 13026	Wells College is a nationally recognized, private liberal arts college located along Cayuga Lake and founded in 1868. The college includes cross enrollment with Cornell University and Ithaca College.	Educational Institution	Yes		Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Wesley Hill Nature Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Ontario	6060-, 6280 Gulick Road Naples, NY 14512	This 390-acre trust consists of land purchased in 1999, thanks to an anonymous donor, and then expanded upon by the purchase of three more parcels and the gift of a fourth. The preserve includes deep gullies carved by glaciers tumbling down towards Honeoye Lake.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
West Cameron State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Steuben	Cameron, New York	This management area consists of 165 acres of woodland that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hunting and trapping, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
West Hill State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Steuben	160-158 W Hill Road Corning, NY 14830	This state forest encompasses 887 acres. There is little development at the site.	New York State Forest	Yes	Hunting and trapping, camping, hiking	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
West River Preserve	Natural	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yates	4899-4801 West Avenue Middlesex, NY 14507	This preserve borders the High Tor Wildlife Management Area and is in a designated Important Bird Area. Established in 2011, the preserve was made possible by a land donation from Constellation Brands and support from the Raines family. The Land Trust worked with USFWS to restore 64 acres of grassland habitat.	Finger Lakes Land Trust Property	Yes	From dusk to dawn, the public may engage in quiet, unobtrusive nature observation and low impact recreational activities such as walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Whitney Point Multiple Use Area	Natural	State Multiple Use Area	Broome, Cortland	Merrill Creek Road Whitney Point, NY 13862	This 4,645-acre multiple use area is managed to promote habitat for numerous species of mammals, birds, and fish.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, hunting, boat launch	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane	Historic	Historic Site		Willard State Psychiatric Center, Willard, NY	The Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane is a former state hospital in Willard, New York, near Seneca Lake. The Willard drug treatment center was opened in 1995 on the campus of the former Willard Psychiatric State Hospital, a facility for mental patients.	National Register of Historic Places	Not currently		Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Willard State Wildlife Management Area	Natural	State Wildlife Management Area	Seneca	7480-7560 County Road 131 Ovid, NY 14521	This wildlife management area includes 135 acres of cropland and 23 acres of woodland which were originally part of the Willard State Hospital farm operations. Farming was discontinued in 1963 and the land was then transferred to the Department of Environmental Conservation. The site borders Seneca Lake.	New York State Wildlife Management Area	Yes	Hiking, hunting and trapping, fishing, wildlife viewing	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Willard Memorial Chapel-Welch Memorial Hall	Historic	Historic Site	Cayuga	17 Nelson St, Auburn, NY 13021	The Willard Memorial Chapel-Welch Memorial Hall was built 1892-1894 and is one of the last surviving complete installations of Tiffany interiors and stained-glass windows in their original locations.	National Historic Landmark	Yes	Tours given every hour	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements; Innovation and Lasting Legacies
William H. Seward House	Historic	Museum and House	Cayuga	33 South St, Auburn, NY 13021	Former home of William H. Seward, who served as US Secretary of State and served as governor of New York and managed international affairs during the Civil War.	National Historic Landmark; NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Tours of the home available	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Windmill Farm & Craft Market	Economic	Business	Yates	3900 NY-14A, Penn Yan, NY 14527	The first and friendliest farm and craft market in upstate New York, located right in the heart of the Finger Lakes Wine region.	None	Yes	Market	Agricultural Traditions; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Wisner Park	Recreational	City Park	Chemung	200 N Main St, Elmira, NY 14901	The Wisner, or Baptist, Burying Ground was located between West Church and West Gray Streets, immediately east of North Main Street in the City of Elmira. Today it is used as a public park with the name Wisner after the donor of the land.	City Park	Yes	Walking, green space	Outdoor Recreation and Leisure

Site Name	Resource Type	Resource Category	County	Address	Brief Description	Designation	Public Access	Current Visitor Opportunities	Themes
Women's Rights National Historical Park	Historic	National Historical Park	Seneca	136 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148	Women's Rights National Historical Park preserves and interprets four discontinuous historic sites associated with the struggle for equal rights for women: Wesleyan Chapel and Declaration Park, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, the M'Clintock House, and the Hunt House.	National Historical Park	Yes	Open to field trips and group tours	Social Ideals Translated into National Movements
Woodlawn Cemetery	Historic	Cemetery	Chemung	1200 Walnut St Elmira, Chemung County, New York	Woodlawn is an active, nonsectarian cemetery where many historic figures, including Mark Twain, are interred.	NPS Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Member/Site	Yes	Open to visitors every day	Historic Connections and Transportation
Yellow Barn State Forest	Natural	State Forest	Tompkins	274-424 Co Road 162A Freeville, NY 13068	This primitive state forest encompasses 1,289 acres.	New York State Forest	Yes	Camping, fishing, hunting and trapping, snowmobiling	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape; Outdoor Recreation and Leisure
Zimmerman House	Historic	Historic Structure	Chemung	Horseheads, NY	The home of cartoonist Eugene Zimmerman. The architectural and historic significance of the house led to its listing in the National Register of Historic places in 1983.	National Register of Historic Places	Yes	Tours by appointment	Innovation and Lasting Legacies
Zurich Bog	Natural	National Natural Landmark	Wayne	3809 Arcadia-Zurich-Norris Road Acadia, NY 14489	The bog, designated in 1973, is a good example of a northern sphagnum bog in later stages of succession and bog forest vegetation, both of which are rare in north-central New York. The approximately 490-acre landmark is situated between glacial drumlins.	National Natural Landmark	Yes	Privately owned by the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society, a conservation group. Access for groups of 6 or more is by permission only.	Glacier-shaped Geologic Landscape



Appendix C: Resolutions

**A Letter of Support from the Trustees in the Village of Aurora in Cayuga
County supporting
the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
May 28, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the Ice Age that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompass a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Cayuga County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2021 the Strategic Tourism Planning Board voted unanimously to support the designation of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area following a presentation on the topic, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Historic Village of Aurora supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga,

FB

Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

Bonnie Apgar Bennett, Mayor Bonnie Apgar Bennett

Grace Bates, Trustee Grace Bates

Matthew Bianconi, Trustee M. Bianconi

Thea Miller, Trustee Thea Miller

Janet Murphy, Trustee Janet Murphy

VILLAGE OF BURDETT

RESOLUTION #11 4/5/2021

RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape, and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes, and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates, and

WHEREAS, the Town/Village of Burdett is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town/Village of Burdett supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

May 31, 2021

Resolution in Support of the Designation of the Finger Lakes and a National Heritage Area

WHEREAS, *the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic, recreational and natural resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and*

WHEREAS, *the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a critical center to this nation’s Woman’s Suffrage movement, passage for the Underground Railway as well as more recently creating a world-renowned wine industry, which together form a unique and distinctive cultural and geographic landscape; and*

WHEREAS, *the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and*

WHEREAS, *the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and*

WHEREAS, *the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and*

WHEREAS, *portions of Cayuga, Cortland, Schuyler, Seneca, Tioga, and Tompkins counties are within the Cayuga Lake watershed; and*

WHEREAS, *the work of CWIO in protecting and restoring the health of the watershed through the collaborative efforts of its 50 municipal members is dependent upon a sense of place and a shared stewardship for the rich natural and cultural resources contained throughout the region; and*

WHEREAS, *the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park*

Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the CWIO supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates in the National Heritage Area, and supports the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their leadership role in administering said National Heritage Area; and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT *Elizabeth Thomas, Chair of the CWIO is authorized to sign and submit this resolution on behalf of CWIO.*

Sincerely,



Chair, Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)
c/o Town of Ithaca
215 N. Tioga Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-279-0675
liz.graepet.thomas@gmail.com

RESOLUTION NO. 21-457

RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF CHEMUNG COUNTY SUPPORTING THE
FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

By: Woodard

Seconded by: Pastrick

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Chemung County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chemung County Legislature supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

Ayes: Pastrick, Sweet, Brennan, Murgeson, Hyland, Woodard, Burin, Chalk, Briggs, McCarthy, Drake, Smith, Strange, Manchester (Chairman) (14); Opposed: None (0); Excused: Sonsire (1)

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF CHEMUNG) SS:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Chemung County Legislature, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in my office, and which was passed by the Chemung County Legislature on the 9th day of August 2021, a majority of all the members elected to the Legislature voting in favor thereof, and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Chemung County Legislature this 10th day of August 2021.

Cynthia G. Kalweit
Cynthia G. Kalweit, Clerk
Chemung County Legislature

A Resolution of the Cortland County Legislature Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity, AND

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape, AND

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions, AND

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes, AND

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates, AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study, AND

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes, NOW,
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

STATE OF NEW YORK) SS:
COUNTY OF CORTLAND)

This is to certify that I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Cortland County Legislature, have compared the foregoing copy with the original now on file in this office, and that the above actions were passed by the Cortland County Legislature on the 22nd day of April, 2021 and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such actions taken.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand

and the official seal of the CORTLAND COUNTY
LEGISLATURE, this 22nd day of April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Mulvihill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Eric J. Mulvihill
Clerk of the Cortland County Legislature



Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council
Official Tourism Promotion Agency for the Finger Lakes Region of New York State
P.O. Box 1011,
Pittsford, NY 14534

A Resolution of the Board of Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
April 15, 2021
May 20, 2021 Amended

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance was a guest presenter at the March 18, 2021 meeting of the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council, and

WHEREAS, the presentation outlined the background and process for achieving the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area, and

WHEREAS, all fourteen counties identified as the Finger Lakes vacation region would be included in such a designation including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates counties, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance was seeking endorsements from all of the counties and additional entities across the region; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council consists of the fourteen officially designated Tourism Promotion Agencies (TPA) of the Finger Lakes vacation region including the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council is designated as the official regional tourism promotion agency for the Finger Lakes vacation region; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, that the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council wishes to support this endeavor, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in fostering the National Heritage Area; and further

RESOLVED, that each TPA is encouraged to facilitate the individual county designations, and further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance leadership, as well as Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Senator Charles Schumer signifying our support.

Christine Worth, Board Chair
Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council



Karen Kuhl, Board Vice Chair
Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council



**A Resolution of the Board of Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
Unanimously passed on April 19, 2021 at the FLTA Board of Directors meeting**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and the Board of Directors of the

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance supports the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

2021 RESOLUTION NO. 46 -2021 – Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Designation. Motion to approve made by Councilmember Aliperti, second by Councilmember Palmieri. Unanimously approved.

**TOWN OF GENEVA
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 46-2021**

Whereas The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by an act of the U.S. Congress in 2019 to determine whether the Finger Lakes area is appropriate for designation as a National Heritage Area; and

Whereas National Heritage Areas are locally managed to create public-private partnerships that support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism and educational projects; and

Whereas the local entity seeking to be the coordinating entity is the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, which was established in 1919, is based in Penn Yan, has representatives from each of the 14 counties designated as part of the Finger Lakes area, and is capable of successfully and properly acting as the coordinating entity for a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area; and

Whereas the designation as a National Heritage Area brings annual federal funding, but the designation does not affect private property rights or impact local zoning; now therefore, it is

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Geneva supports the designation of the Finger Lakes area as a National Heritage Area and the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the coordinating entity.

I, Lorrie S. Naegele, Town Clerk of the Town of Geneva do hereby certify that the aforementioned resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Geneva on April 13, 2021. Unanimously approved.

Date: April 13, 2021

Lorrie S. Naegele
Lorrie S. Naegele, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 39 – 2021

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF GENEVA'S ISSUANCE OF A PETITION TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE FINGER LAKES AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

WHEREAS, Geneva has an exceptionally strong and compelling history, and is within the 13 county area under evaluation for designation by our US Congress as a National Heritage Area.

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area is managed by local people, rather than the National Park Service, whose role is limited to managing the designation process.

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area is a grassroots, community driven program that uses public private partnerships to support historic preservation, national resource conservation, recreation, tourism and education, and does not affect private land ownership.

WHEREAS, designation benefits are both tangible and intangible, including sustainable economic development, environmental improvement, education, and community engagement. Most areas are authorized by Congress to receive up to \$1 million annually, although \$150,000-750,000 is common.

WHEREAS, however, the National Park Service is seeking public comment on the feasibility study regarding whether the US Congress should designate the Finger Lakes to join the current 55 domestic sites as a National Heritage Area.

WHEREAS, since there is no cost to the city, and possibly meaningful benefits, it is to our advantage to assist in garnering the designation by virtue of issuing favorable opinion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council shall approve and submit comment favoring inclusion of the Finger Lakes in the National Park Service's "Feasibility Study – Survey" to the NPS concerning successful National Heritage Area certification in a format provided in the attached draft petition letter.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ONTARIO) ss:

I, Lori Guinan, City Clerk of the City of Geneva, New York, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and complete copy of an original resolution on file in the City Clerk's Office, which said original was adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Geneva City Council held on May 5, 2021.

Dated: May 7, 2021

Lori Guinan

City Clerk

Resolution of the Board of Directors

Keuka Lake Association

Whereas The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by an act of the U.S. Congress in 2019 to determine whether the Finger Lakes area is appropriate for the designation as a National Heritage Area; and

Whereas National Heritage Areas are locally managed to create public-private partnerships that support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, invasive species mitigation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects; and

Whereas the local entity seeking to be the coordinating entity is the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, which was established in 1919, is based in Penn Yan, New York in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region, has representatives from each of the 14 counties designated as part of the Finger Lakes area, and is capable of successfully and properly acting as the coordinating entity for a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area; and

Whereas the designation as a National Heritage Area brings annual federal funding, but the designation does not affect private property rights or impact local zoning; now therefore, it is

RESOLVED that the Keuka Lake Association that was founded in 1956 with the mission to preserve and protect Keuka Lake and its Watershed and on behalf of its over 1800 members supports the designation of the Finger Lakes area as a National Heritage Area and the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the coordinating entity.

Resolution of the Board of Directors

May 4, 2021

Keuka Lake Association

Whereas The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by an act of the U.S. Congress in 2019 to determine whether the Finger Lakes area is appropriate for the designation as a National Heritage Area; and

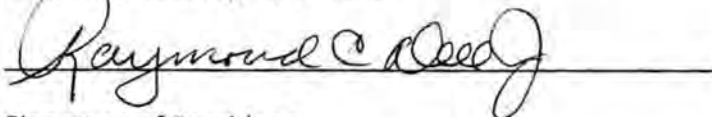
Whereas National Heritage Areas are locally managed to create public-private partnerships that support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, invasive species mitigation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects; and

Whereas the local entity seeking to be the coordinating entity is the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, which was established in 1919, is based in Penn Yan, New York in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region, has representatives from each of the 14 counties designated as part of the Finger Lakes area, and is capable of successfully and properly acting as the coordinating entity for a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area; and

Whereas the designation as a National Heritage Area brings annual federal funding, but the designation does not affect private property rights or impact local zoning; now therefore, it is

RESOLVED that the Keuka Lake Association that was founded in 1956 with the mission to preserve and protect Keuka Lake and its Watershed and on behalf of its over 1800 members supports the designation of the Finger Lakes area as a National Heritage Area and the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the coordinating entity.

I, Raymond C. Dell Jr., President of the Keuka Lake Association, certifies that the above resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution, which was duly adopted and made a part of the recorded meeting minutes of the Keuka Lake Association held on May 5, 2021 in Penn Yan, Yates County, New York.



Signature of President

Date: May 12, 2021

**A Resolution of the Board of the Town of Montezuma, Cayuga County, NY
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
May 18, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Montezuma, Cayuga County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

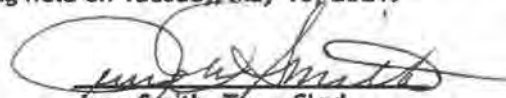
WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Montezuma, Cayuga County, NY, supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

**Motion made by: Thomas Fitzsimmons
Motion Seconded by: Joel Glimpse
Resolution adopted by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays**

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Montezuma at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Dated: May 26, 2021


June Smith, Town Clerk



Havana Glen



Eagle Cliff Falls

Town of Montour

PO Box 579 • 135 Havana Glen Rd • Montour Falls, NY 14865

Phone: 607-535-9476 • Fax: 607-535-8897

E-mail: Mtownhall1@stny.rr.com

Present: David Scott – Supervisor
Donna Taber – Councilperson
Breana Yessman – Councilperson
Tiffany Zinger – Councilperson

Town of Montour Regular Meeting April 13th, 2021

Resolution #19

DESIGNATION OF A FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

On motion of Councilperson Yessman, seconded by Supervisor Scott, the following resolution was

Adopted: Ayes – 4 Noes – 0

RESOLVED that the Town of Montour support the FLTA in securing a National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes.

May 4, 2021

Motion Made By Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Mr. Bush, Dr. Chase,
Mr. Burtis, Dr. Kelly

RESOLUTION NO. 61

**DESIGNATING SUPPORT FOR THE FINGER LAKES TOURISM REGION OF NEW YORK STATE
TO BE NAMED A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA BY THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes and surrounding communities form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompass a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Region is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages, small towns, mid-sized cities, and a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompass a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes Region including the following counties: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Onondaga County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural, and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business communities and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Onondaga County legislature supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Onondaga County Legislature hereby designates support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Region, encompassing all fourteen counties of the Finger Lakes region, be named a National Heritage Area as determined by the National Parks Service.

ADOPTED 5/4/21



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the legislation duly adopted by the County Legislature of Onondaga County on the 4th day of May 2021.

Clerk, County Legislature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jm".

Finger Lakes NHA DLL dak 4 26.2021

Board of Supervisors

Canandaigua, New York 14424

Supervisor Kristine Singer offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 219-2021
RESOLUTION OF THE ONTARIO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF
THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York is unique and diverse encompassing a network of cultures and history as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that comprise a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes Region is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” with rich agricultural lands that provided Native American hunting grounds, village settlement, and native culture, and more recently inspired European settlement with subsequent development of small cities, villages and hamlets, significant agricultural production that includes a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Said legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Ontario County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community

and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes Visitors Connection and the Planning Department have been actively engaged in the National Park Service's effort in compiling the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study and recommend adoption of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, The Planning and Environmental Quality Committee recommends adoption of this resolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports further dialogue concerning future local administration of the National Heritage Area.



STATE OF NEW YORK }
County of Ontario }

I do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding with the original thereof, on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at Canandaigua, New York, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original; and that said original was duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County held at Canandaigua, New York, on May 13, 2021.

Given under my hand and official seal May 14, 2021.

Kristin A. Mueller

Kristin A. Mueller, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County, NY

Board of Supervisors
Canandaigua, New York 14424

Supervisor Kristine Singer offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 261-2021
RESOLUTION OF THE ONTARIO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGARDING LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE POTENTIAL FINGER LAKES
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 219-2021 supported the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area (FLNHA); and

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) has been instrumental in promoting the passage of Federal John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 that directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the feasibility of designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting said feasibility study, one parameter of which is to evaluate the capability of a local agency or agencies to develop the management plan and local structure for administering the National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, If Congress designates the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area, federal funding is expected to be provided to assist in the development of a management plan for the FLNHA with said funding expected to involve a 1:1 local match requirement; and

WHEREAS, FLTA is 501c6 not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to, “Lead tourism economic growth and development through exemplary promotion of the Finger Lakes region as a world class destination,” and FLTA is a membership (pay to belong) organization whose officers and directors are comprised primarily of representatives from local businesses and business organizations and not local government; and

WHEREAS, FLTA has been heavily involved in working with the NPS as it conducts the feasibility study, and FLTA has indicated its willingness to be the entity to receive any federal funding to develop the management plan for the FLNHA and to develop an independent not-for-profit corporation to manage the implementation of the plan including determining distribution of any federal funding allocated to the FLNHA; and

WHEREAS, This Board believes that the development of the FLNHA management plan and its administration must ensure equitable involvement and participation by local government as well as tourism agencies and businesses in the fourteen county Finger Lakes Region including the counties of

Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, A management plan for a Finger Lakes Region National Heritage Area is likely to involve land use planning initiatives and templates for local government adoption as well as funding for events, activities, and tourism enterprises; and

WHEREAS, The Planning and Environmental Quality Committee recommends adoption of this resolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County hereby states its appreciation to the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance for all its efforts in promoting the Finger Lakes Region National Heritage Area designation; and further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County supports the designation of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the local agency to receive any federal funding to develop a management plan for the FLNHA provided the federal legislation designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area requires the committee formed by the FLTA to develop the management plan and structure of a not-for-profit corporation to include broad regional representation from local government such as county planning agencies and a mechanism to foster direct communication with both the Planning agency and tourism promotion agency from every County in the Finger Lakes Region in order to build wide and comprehensive consensus on the plan and the structure of the not-for-profit corporation proposed to administer the national heritage area; and further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County recommends the federal legislation designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area require the creation of an independent not-for-profit corporation to administer the implementation of the national heritage area management plan and the equitable distribution of any federal funding must include regionally balanced representation of county government on the board of directors and the creation of a local government advisory committee to provide input to the Board of Directors of said not-for-profit organization on local government and land use issues and initiatives with each County responsible for appointing a representative thereto.



STATE OF NEW YORK }
County of Ontario }

I do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding with the original thereof, on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at Canandaigua, New York, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original; and that said original was duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County held at Canandaigua, New York, on June 3, 2021.

Given under my hand and official seal June 4, 2021.

Kristin A. Mueller
Kristin A. Mueller, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County, NY

**RESOLUTION OF THE ONTARIO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGARDING LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE POTENTIAL FINGER LAKES
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

WHEREAS, Resolution ??-2021 supported the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area (FLNHA); and

WHEREAS, The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) has been instrumental in promoting the passage of Federal John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 that directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the feasibility of designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting said feasibility study, one parameter of which is to evaluate the capability of a local agency or agencies to develop the management plan and local structure for administering the National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, If Congress designates the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area, federal funding is expected to be provided to assist in the development of a management plan for the FLNHA with said funding expected to involve a 1:1 local match requirement; and

WHEREAS, FLTA is 501c6 not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to, “Lead tourism economic growth and development through exemplary promotion of the Finger Lakes region as a world class destination,” and FLTA is a membership (pay to belong) organization whose officers and directors are comprised primarily of representatives from local businesses and business organizations and not local government; and

WHEREAS, FLTA has been heavily involved in working with the NPS as it conducts the feasibility study, and FLTA has indicated its willingness to be the entity to receive any federal funding to develop the management plan for the FLNHA and to develop an independent not-for-profit corporation to manage the implementation of the plan including determining distribution of any federal funding allocated to the FLNHA; and

WHEREAS, This Board believes that the development of the FLNHA management plan and its administration must ensure equitable involvement and participation by local government as well as tourism agencies and businesses in the fourteen county Finger Lakes Region including the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, A management plan for a Finger Lakes Region National Heritage Area is likely to involve land use planning initiatives and templates for local government adoption as well as funding for events, activities, and tourism enterprises; and

WHEREAS, The Planning and Environmental Quality Committee recommends adoption of this resolution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County hereby states its appreciation to the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance for all its efforts in promoting the Finger Lakes Region National Heritage Area designation; and further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County supports the designation of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the local agency to receive any federal funding to develop a management plan for the FLNHA provided the federal legislation designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area requires the committee formed by the FLTA to develop the management plan and structure of a not-for-profit corporation to include broad regional representation from local government such as county planning agencies and a mechanism to foster direct communication with both the Planning agency and tourism promotion agency from every County in the Finger Lakes Region in order to build wide and comprehensive consensus on the plan and the structure of the not-for-profit corporation proposed to administer the national heritage area; and further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of Ontario County recommends the federal legislation designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area require the creation of an independent not-for-profit corporation to administer the implementation of the national heritage area management plan and the equitable distribution of any federal funding must include regionally balanced representation of county government on the board of directors and the creation of a local government advisory committee to provide input to the Board of Directors of said not-for-profit organization on local government and land use issues and initiatives with each County responsible for appointing a representative thereto.

Town of Reading
PO Box 5
Reading Center, NY 14876
607-535-7459

May 20, 2021

At the May 12, 2021 Town Board Meeting the following resolution was passed.

RESOLUTION #34 Councilperson Stamp made a motion to support the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area Designation. Seconded by Councilperson Everett.

AYES:	Councilperson Gill Councilperson Richtmyer Councilperson Everett Councilperson- C. Stamp Supervisor Miller	NAYS: none
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WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape, and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes, and

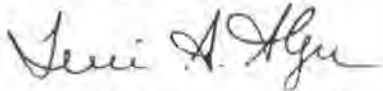
WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Reading is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Reading supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Terri A. Alger".

Terri A. Alger – Reading Town Clerk

Resolution Supporting Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Whereas The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by an act of the U.S. Congress in 2019 to determine whether the Finger Lakes area is appropriate for designation as a National Heritage Area; and

Whereas National Heritage Areas are locally managed to create public-private partnerships that support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism and educational projects; and

Whereas the local entity seeking to be the coordinating entity is the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, which was established in 1919, is based in Penn Yan, has representatives from each of the 14 counties designated as part of the Finger Lakes area, and is capable of successfully and properly acting as the coordinating entity for a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area; and


Whereas the designation as a National Heritage Area brings annual federal funding, but the designation does not affect private property rights or impact local zoning; now therefore, it is

RESOLVED the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization supports the designation of the Finger Lakes area as a National Heritage Area and the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the coordinating entity.

This resolution was unanimously approved by the membership at the meeting of April 29, 2021.

Date:

April 30, 2021



Grant Downs, Secretary

**A Resolution of the Board of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
May 20th, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a center for the Woman’s suffrage movement, a passage for the Underground Railway, and, more recently, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

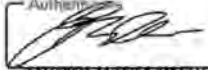
WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Seneca Lake is the largest of the lakes within the Finger Lakes Tourism region and the National Heritage Area study area and has an itself an abundance of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

Whereas, on the above date the Board of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association did unanimously vote to approve this resolution duly authorizing its President to sign the same in confirmation of said vote.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

Authentisign

05/27/2021 11:58:54 AM EDT
05/27/2021 |

Jacob P. Welch, President

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association

SCHUYLER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

105 Ninth Street Unit 6, Watkins Glen, NY 14891
Phone (607) 535-8100

Carl H. Blowers, Chairman
District V

Philip C. Barnes
District VI

Van A. Harp
District II

Michael L. Lausell
District III



Web www.schuylercounty.us Email: Legislature@co.schuyler.ny.us

Stacy B. Husted, Clerk/County Auditor
Jamee L. Mack, Deputy Clerk

"An Equal Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer"

James D. Howell, Jr.
District IV

Marl F. Rondinaro
District VII

Davis M. Reed
District I

Gary L. Gray
District VIII

April 14, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's
National Heritage Area Committee
Attn: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527

RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
– Resolution No. 106-21

Dear Coleen:

Enclosed you will find a certified copy of Schuyler County Resolution No. 106-21 adopted by the Schuyler County Legislature at our Monday, April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Sincerely,

Jamee L. Mack
Deputy Clerk
SCHUYLER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution No. 106
SCHUYLER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Regular Meeting
April 12, 2021

Intro. No. 23
Approved by Committee MFR
Approved by Co. Atty. SJG

Motion by Rondinaro
Seconded by Howell
Vote: 8 Ayes to 0 Noes
Name of Noes _____

RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape, and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes, and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates, and

WHEREAS, the County of Schuyler is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study, and

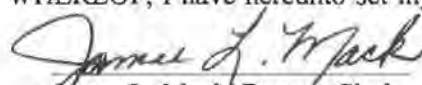
WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Schuyler County Legislature supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) SS:
COUNTY OF SCHUYLER)

I, Jamee L. Mack, Deputy Clerk of the Schuyler County Legislature, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of resolution duly adopted by the County Legislature on April 12, 2021.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said County Legislature at Watkins Glen, NY.


Jamee L. Mack, Deputy Clerk

4-14-2021
Date

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SENECA COUNTY

Waterloo, New York 13165

SUPERVISORS SUPPORT FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

RESOLUTION NO. 69-21, moved by Sprvr. Barnhart, second by Sprvr. Trout and adopted.

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Seneca County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State Law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been duly considered Pursuant to Rule 29 of the Rules of Order of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Seneca County Board of Supervisors supports the Finger Lakes National

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SENECA COUNTY

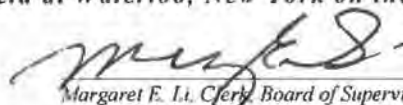
Waterloo, New York 13165

-2-

Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

I do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding with the original thereof, on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at Waterloo, New York, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original; and that said original was duly adopted at a Regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Seneca County held at Waterloo, New York on the 13 day of April 2021.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
County of Seneca)



Margaret E. Li, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Seneca County, Waterloo, New York 13165

Given under my hand and official seal 4/14/2021



**A Resolution of the Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
May 26, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompass a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study; Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, The Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

"EASTERN GATEWAY TO THE FINGER LAKES OF CENTRAL NEW YORK"



Smith Center for the Arts
82 Seneca Street
Geneva, NY 14456
315-781-5483 | 1-866-355-5483
www.thesmith.org

**A Resolution of the Board of the Smith Center for the Arts
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
April 20, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, the Smith Center for the Arts is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Smith Center for the Arts supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

Smith Opera House is owned and operated by the Smith Center for the Arts, a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained from the Smith Center or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

RESOLUTION No. 21-1

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board

Regular Meeting

May 20, 2021

RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS: The legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the

National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS: The Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board serves the tri-county area of Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties as the region's local development district and is an integral partner in the distribution of Appalachian Regional Commission and Economic Development Administration funding; and

RESOLVED: That the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board hereby supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this resolution to: Members of the U.S. Congress - Honorable U.S. Senator, Charles Schumer; Honorable U.S. Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand; Honorable 23rd District U.S. Congressman Thomas Reed; and the Honorable 22nd District U.S. Congresswoman, Claudia Tenney,



Carl Blowers, Chair
Southern Tier Central Regional
Planning and Development Board

5/20/21
Date

**STEBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK**

BRENDA K. SCOTCHMER
CLERK
bscotchmer@steubencountyny.gov



AMANDA L. CHAPMAN
DEPUTY CLERK
achapman@steubencountyny.gov

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
3 EAST PULTENEY SQUARE
BATH, NY 14810-1557
(607) 664-2247
FAX (607) 664-2282

April 27, 2021

Cindy Kimble, President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

RE: FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

Dear Ms. Kimble:

Enclosed, please find a resolution entitled "Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Designation" which the Steuben County Legislature adopted on April 26, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda L. Chapman".

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk

Enclosure

**RESOLUTION
 STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE
 BATH, NEW YORK**

DATE APPROVED : 04/26/2021 INTRO. NO. : 24-22
 PERM. NO. : 083-21 INTRO. DATE: 04/26/2021

INTRO. BY : R. Lattimer SECONDED BY : K. Fitzpatrick

VOTE:

ROLL CALL	<u> </u>	YES	<u> </u>	AMENDED	<u> </u>	LOST	<u> </u>
ADOPTED	<u> X </u>	NO	<u> </u>	TABLED	<u> </u>	W/DRWN	<u> </u>
ACCLAMATION	<u> X </u>	ABSTN'D	<u> </u>	POSTPONED	<u> </u>		
		ABSENT	<u> </u>	REF'D/COM	<u> </u>		

COMMITTEES:

AIP Y: 5 N: 0 Y: N: Y: N:

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION.

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have, over the years, been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism Region, as designated by New York State legislation and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local government, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Steuben County Legislature hereby supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area and supports the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area; and be it further

RESOLVED certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Honorable Charles E. Schumer, United States Senator, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-3202; Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator, Kenneth B. Keating Federal Building, 100 State Street, Room 4195, Rochester, NY 14614; Honorable Thomas Reed, United States Congressman, 2263 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Honorable Thomas M. O'Mara, New York State Senator, 406 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; Honorable Philip A. Palmesano, New York State Assemblyman, 320 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Honorable Joseph M. Giglio, New York State Assemblyman, 525 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Honorable Marjorie Byrnes, New York State Assemblywoman, 723 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Brooke Harris, President, Inter-County Association of Western New York, c/o Allegany County Legislature, 7 Court Street, Belmont, NY 14813-1084; Shawn Bengel, Deputy Director of Operations, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240; Bert Frost, Regional Director, National Park Service, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE 68102-4226; Cindy Kimble, President, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, 309 Lake Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527 and Kevin Costello, President, Corning and the Southern Finger Lakes, 1 W. Market Street, Suite 201, Corning, NY 14830.

STATE OF NEW YORK)

ss.:

COUNTY OF STEUBEN)

I, the undersigned, Deputy Clerk of the Steuben County Legislature, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY**, that the foregoing is a copy of a resolution duly adopted by said County Legislature while in session in the Legislative Chambers in the Village of Bath, New York, April 26, 2021; that it is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the said County Legislature at Bath, New York, April 26, 2021.


Amanda L. Chapman, Deputy Clerk



**A Resolution of the Board of the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Central New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Steuben County is within the Finger Lakes and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

Steuben County Conference & Visitors Bureau

1 W. Market Street, Suite 201 • Corning, NY 14830 • 607-936-6544 • www.CorningFingerLakes.com

Adopted March 23, 2021



Ron Leonard, Chairman

Attest: 

Kevin Costello, President



Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association
P.O. Box 3587, Syracuse, NY 13220

**A Resolution of the Board of the Greater Syracuse Hospitality and Tourism Association
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
April 20, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity: and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Onondaga County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the

National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Greater Syracuse Hospitality and Tourism Association supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

The Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association Board

Danielle Neuser
Director of Sales, Embassy Suites Destiny USA
President, Greater Syracuse Hospitality and Tourism Association
Danielle.Neuser@Hilton.com

Kyle D. Hares
General Manager, Crowne Plaza Syracuse
Vice President, Greater Syracuse Hospitality and Tourism Association

Tony Mangano
Partner: Homewood Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites, Tru by Hilton, and Super 8 Motel –
Syracuse/Liverpool
Treasurer, Syracuse Hospitality and Tourism Association

David J. Foor
President, Visual Technologies Syracuse

Jim Stocker
General Manager, Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool

John Tees
Director of Operations
North East Hospitality
CrestHill Suites, Burrstone Inn, Best Western Plus

Rob Benetti
General Manager, Doubletree Syracuse Carrier Circle

Fred Grabosky
General Manager, Marriott Syracuse Downtown

MAY 6, 2021

RESOLUTION – TIOGA COUNTY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SUPPORT FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS: The legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-

profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the

National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Local Development Corporation hereby supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "LeeAnn Tinney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LeeAnn Tinney, President
Tioga County Local Development Corporation

Planning Board

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building 56 Main Street Owego, NY 13827



Elaine D. Jardine County Planning Director ☎ 607 687 8257 📠 607 223 7081 🌐 www.TiogaCountyNY.com
Douglas Chrzanowski Chair

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2021 SUPPORT FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS: The legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS: Tioga County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS: The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the

Planning Board

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building 56 Main Street Owego, NY 13827



Elaine D. Jardine County Planning Director ☎ 607 687 8257 📠 607 223 7081 🌐 www.TiogaCountyNY.com
Douglas Chrzanowski Chair

National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Tioga County Planning Board hereby supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

ADOPTED
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-91

Supporting the Designation of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompass a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes region is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the Ice Age that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, and a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape, and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompass a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes, and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural, and recreational resources pertinent to the study, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes, and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2021, the Tompkins County Strategic Tourism Planning Board voted unanimously to support the designation of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area following a presentation on the topic, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area,

RESOLVED, further, That copies of this resolution be submitted to the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Wayne, and Yates, Members of Congress Claudia Tenney, Thomas Reed, John Katko, Joseph Morelle, and Christopher Jacobs, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, and the New York State Association of Counties.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-26

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shawna Black, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Deborah Dawson, Member
AYES:	Black, Champion, Dawson, John, Klein, Koreman, Lane, McBean-Clairborne, McKenna, Morey, Robertson, Schill, Sigler
EXCUSED:	Henry Granison

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
 COUNTY OF TOMPKINS)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by the Tompkins County Legislature on May 4, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Legislature at Ithaca, New York, on May 6, 2021.

Catherine Covert , Clerk
 Tompkins County Legislature



WHEREAS, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes for the purpose of determining whether or not the Finger Lakes region of NY State should be designated as a National Heritage Area; and,

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area designation would boost local tourism and conserve and protect the region's natural, historic, and cultural resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Trumansburg lies in the heart of the proposed National Heritage Area, in between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, the two largest Finger Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Trumansburg has long recognized the natural, historic, and cultural importance of the region, as recognized in the Village of Trumansburg's Comprehensive Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Trumansburg lies within close proximity to several unique areas, including Taughannock Falls, the Finger Lakes National Forest, the Cayuga and Seneca Wine Trails, and the Finger Lakes themselves, all of which deserve federal recognition; and,

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is the primary watershed for hundreds of thousands of residents in rural Central New York; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Trumansburg Board of Trustees strongly supports the designation of the Finger Lakes region of NY State as a National Heritage Area; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village of Trumansburg concurs with the content of the National Park Service's Draft Narrative Summary of the area's historic context, which accurately describes the region's "unique and important American stories and how they can be experienced by the general public", and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village of Trumansburg believes that designation the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area is both warranted and vital for the long-term well being of the region, and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution should be forwarded to the National Park Service, Congressman Tom Reed, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Senator Chuck Schumer.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE TRUMANSBURG VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT A BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 10TH, 2021. WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID VILLAGE THIS 10th DAY OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE.

Tammy J. Morse
Village Clerk

**A Resolution of the Board of Village of Union Springs
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
April 20, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity: and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Union Springs is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of Union Springs supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

The resolution was adopted by the following vote:

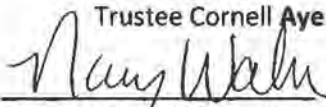
Motion By Mayor Shattuck

2nd By Trustee Thurston

Trustee O'Hara **Aye**

Trustee Boyd **Aye**

Trustee Cornell **Aye**


Nancy Walter, Village Clerk
4/20/21



**RESOLUTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
of the
VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN
APRIL 6, 2021**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen, New York, held on April 6, 2021, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape, and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes, and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study, and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study in 2021, and continues to work the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes.



**RESOLUTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
of the
VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN
APRIL 6, 2021**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Watkins Glen supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

I, Lonnie M. Childs, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen at its April 6, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Lonnie M. Childs
Village Clerk

Dated: April 6, 2021
Resolution No.: 11-040621

Board of Supervisors
WAYNE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 200-21: AUTHORIZATION FOR WAYNE COUNTY SUPPORT OF THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FOR WAYNE COUNTY TOURISM

Mr. Spickerman presented the following:

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Wayne County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

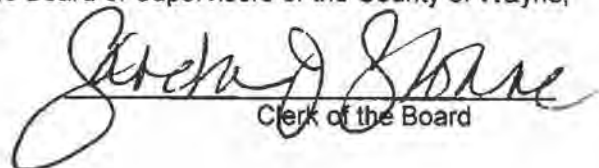
RESOLVED, that Wayne County supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area and will work with the designated administrator of the National Heritage Area to recognize Wayne County's attributes within the Finger Lakes Region.

Mr. Robusto moved the adoption of the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Lasher. Upon roll call, adopted.

WAYNE COUNTY
Board of Supervisors
LYONS, NEW YORK

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wayne, have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of said County at a session held on the 20th day of April 2021 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wayne, this 20th day of April 2021.


Clerk of the Board

**STATE OF NEW YORK
YATES COUNTY LEGISLATURE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

Penn Yan, N.Y. May 10, 2021

I Hereby Certify, That I have compared the preceding with the original thereof, on file in the office of the Clerk of the County Legislature at Penn Yan, New York, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original; and that said original was duly adopted at a meeting of the County Legislature of Yates County held at Penn Yan, New York on the 10th day of May 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 207-21

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompass a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes region is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the "Ice Age" that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate a National Heritage Area that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

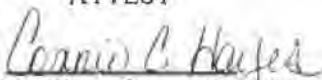
WHEREAS, Yates County is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yates County Legislature supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this letter be given to the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance.

ATTEST


Clerk of the Yates County Legislature

**A Resolution of the Board of Yates County Country Cooperative, Inc.
Supporting the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
May 12th, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes form a unique and diverse region in Upstate New York and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes is distinguished by eleven pristine lakes formed over 19,000 years ago at the end of the “Ice Age” that have over the years been Native American hunting grounds and villages, rich agricultural lands that inspired settlement, villages and small towns, a world-renowned wine industry, which have together formed a unique and distinctive landscape; and

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources of the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates; and

WHEREAS, Yates County Country Cooperative, Inc., is within the Finger Lakes Tourism region, as designated by New York State law and the National Heritage Area study area and has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural, and recreational resources pertinent to the study; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business community and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups in submitting the original request to the National Park Service which resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019, and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Yates County Country Cooperative, Inc., supports the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area, and supports Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.



Mary Record, President
Yates County Country Cooperative, Inc.

RESOLUTION # 39 – 2021

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY OF GENEVA'S ISSUANCE OF A PETITION TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE FINGER LAKES AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

WHEREAS, Geneva has an exceptionally strong and compelling history, and is within the 13 county area under evaluation for designation by our US Congress as a National Heritage Area.

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area is managed by local people, rather than the National Park Service, whose role is limited to managing the designation process.

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area is a grassroots, community driven program that uses public private partnerships to support historic preservation, national resource conservation, recreation, tourism and education, and does not affect private land ownership.

WHEREAS, designation benefits are both tangible and intangible, including sustainable economic development, environmental improvement, education, and community engagement. Most areas are authorized by Congress to receive up to \$1 million annually, although \$150,000-750,000 is common.

WHEREAS, however, the National Park Service is seeking public comment on the feasibility study regarding whether the US Congress should designate the Finger Lakes to join the current 55 domestic sites as a National Heritage Area.

WHEREAS, since there is no cost to the city, and possibly meaningful benefits, it is to our advantage to assist in garnering the designation by virtue of issuing favorable opinion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council shall approve and submit comment favoring inclusion of the Finger Lakes in the National Park Service's "Feasibility Study – Survey" to the NPS concerning successful National Heritage Area certification in a format provided in the attached draft petition letter.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF ONTARIO) ss:

I, Lori Guinan, City Clerk of the City of Geneva, New York, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and complete copy of an original resolution on file in the City Clerk's Office, which said original was adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Geneva City Council held on May 5, 2021.

Dated: May 7, 2021



City Clerk



Appendix D: Letters Received



May 26, 2021

Martha Droge, AICP, LEED AP, ASLA
Community Planner, Park Planning and Special Studies
National Park Service, Interior Region 1
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Dear Martha:

Thank you for meeting with Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor staff and Peter Samuel, DOI Region 1 National Heritage Area (NHA) Program Manager, on March 31, 2021 regarding the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study. We very much appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the study and to offer our initial observations and perspectives. As you recommended during our meeting, we are now submitting written comments.

Since a substantial portion of the proposed Finger Lakes NHA boundary overlaps the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (see [map](#) on page 4), we are familiar with many of the resources and potential interpretive themes of the proposed NHA. It is our goal here to offer constructive observations and supportive recommendations based on this institutional experience. We hope that these comments can serve to strengthen your recommendations to Congress and further assist in their careful consideration of this important region of upstate New York as a National Heritage Area.

We offer our observations in three categories:

1. National Importance (Significance) & Interpretive Themes
2. Boundaries
3. Overlap of a new NHA with an existing NHA

NATIONAL IMPORTANCE (SIGNIFICANCE) & INTERPRETIVE THEMES

By definition, National Heritage Areas must be important on a national scale. That importance (or significance) comes from a combination of human activity (heritage), geography (area), and the stories chosen to tell about human activity in that place over time (interpretive themes).

Trying to encompass too large an area, or tell every possible story, may muddle the messages, confuse visitors, and diminish rather than enhance a sense of national importance.

The draft study includes several potential interpretive themes showcasing a very wide range of stories to share with the American public. Several interpretive themes seem particularly appropriate for the Finger Lakes NHA, such as the Glacier-Shaped Geologic Landscape, Agriculture Traditions, and Recreation. The story of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, included in the Feasibility Study under Agricultural Traditions and Social Ideals, is a nationally important theme but it extends far beyond the Finger Lakes.

Other interpretive themes may be too broad and diffuse, lacking cohesiveness or have duplication with stories already being shared. For example, under the Social Ideals Translated into National Movements theme, Erie Canalway's *Preservation and Management Plan* addresses religious idealism and women's suffrage, along with transportation (also, see overlap with existing NHA comments below).

Recommendation for consideration: The current draft feasibility document's interpretive themes could be further honed and strengthened to define a specific area (see boundary comments below).

BOUNDARIES

National heritage areas are typically defined by historic, cultural, and natural resources that combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes. The geology of the Finger Lakes provides a clear and compelling boundary for the proposed national heritage area.

Geologically and topographically, the Finger Lakes region is defined by north-south running bodies of water. From east to west the major lakes considered "The Finger Lakes" include Skaneateles, Owasco, Cayuga, Seneca, Keuka (historically known as Crooked), and Canandaigua. Each drain north into the Seneca River and eventually into Lake Ontario by way of the Oswego River. The same glaciers carved Cazenovia and Otisco lakes to the east and Honeoye, Candice, Hemlock and Conesus lakes to the west, but they aren't usually counted among the big six.

The study area defined by Congress encompassed fourteen (14) of New York's 62 counties and extends beyond what most people recognize as the "Finger Lakes" region. The study area appears to be defined by New York State's tourism and/or economic development regions rather than geology, topography, or clearly defined interpretive themes. Central, Western, and the Southern Tier regions of New York, currently included within the proposed Finger Lakes NHA boundary, are comprised of multiple, separate, unrelated drainage basins, most of which are not physically connected to the Finger Lakes.

For example:

- Monroe (which includes the City of Rochester) and Livingston counties are not part of the Finger Lakes region; rather, they are part of the Genesee River Basin
- Wayne County: most of the county is north of the Clyde River which forms the outlet for Canandaigua Lake
- Onondaga County (which includes the City of Syracuse): only the east shore of Skaneateles Lake and the Village of Skaneateles are within the Finger Lakes drainage
- Tioga, Chemung, and most of Steuben Counties are part of the Susquehanna drainage basin and are separated from the southern ends of the Finger Lakes by a large terminal moraine deposited as the glaciers melted about 13,000 years ago

The six-lake region has a distinctive topography and a micro-climate that encouraged certain forms of agriculture. Institutions like the Cornell School of Agriculture and Geneva Experiment Station made it a nationally important center for the improvement and dissemination of agricultural practices. The topography attracted visitors, particularly to the gorges at the southern ends of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes in Ithaca, Watkins Glen, and Montour Falls.

Recommendations for consideration: Refine boundaries to better reflect the specifically relevant interpretive and geologic themes. Refining the boundary will help to sharpen interpretive themes and result in a more meaningful, focused, and distinctive sense of place.

OVERLAP WITH EXISTING NHA (ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR)

Nationwide, NHA overlaps are generally avoided and are typically not an issue because distinctive geography and nationally significant stories are identified and separated regionally as part of the feasibility or special resource study process.

In New York State, there are four established National Heritage Areas. The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area does not overlap but is adjacent to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. While there is some overlap with Erie Canalway between the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley NHA and the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, the geographic extent is small (limited to the Champlain Valley / Champlain Canal). Overall, the interpretative foci of New York's four established NHAs is significantly different. However, even though Erie Canalway, Hudson River, and Champlain Valley NHAs emphasize different time periods and stories, the area where the boundaries of all three overlap is an ongoing source of confusion to residents, visitors, and public officials. This is a direct result of multiple organizations creating interpretive, wayfinding, and other forms of public signage within a given region, as well as creating uncertainty about which organization may be offering grants, public programs, and other services.

Recommendations for consideration: Addressing the large proposed Finger Lakes NHA overlap with Erie Canalway should be clearly addressed during the feasibility study. This will help to avoid public confusion and address potential management impacts on both the existing and new NHA. Consider the fiscal, management, and public service of the proposed NHA region as being as important as the interpretive themes for the success of a future NHA. Include in the Feasibility Study a summary of potential limits and impacts that may result from significant NHA overlap for a complete picture of the actual "feasibility" of the proposed designation and its impact on an existing NHA.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to review the study and share our comments. We are available at any time to provide any clarifications, discuss opportunities for collaboration and otherwise continue to support your study process.

Respectfully,

Bob Radliff, Executive Director
Andy Kitzmann, Assistant Director
Jean Mackay, Director of Communications & Outreach
Duncan Hay, NPS Historian

cc: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator Charles Schumer
Congressman Tom Reed (NY-23)
Congressman John Katko (NY-24)
Congressman Joseph Morelle (NY-25)
Congressman Chris Jacobs (NY-27)
Gay Vietzke, DOI Region 1, Regional Director
Liz Vehmeyer, Acting National Heritage Area Program Manager
Peter Samuel, DOI Region 1, National Heritage Area Program Manager
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commissioners

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND
CORRECTION

COMMITTEES
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
CODES
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
LABOR

**NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE**



**SENATOR
FREDERICK J. AKSHAR II
52ND SENATE DISTRICT**

March 31, 2021

PLEASE RESPOND TO
J ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 608
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
518-455-2677

J DISTRICT OFFICE:
BINGHAMTON STATE OFFICE BLDG.
44 HAWLEY STREET, STE. 1607
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK 13901
607-773-8771

Coleen Fabrizi, Committee Chair
FLTA's National Heritage Area Committee
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in strong support of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's (FLTA) effort to secure a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Finger Lakes region.

FLTA is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants, overseeing regranting, and developing organizations to protect assets such as FLOWPA. FLTA is an organization that has the unique nexus of bringing together public and private support which is exactly what's needed from a coordinating entity of an NHA.

Furthermore, I believe that it's important to ensure the service area defined by New York State Law remain intact throughout this process. As such, I support having the region of designation include the 14 counties designated by New York State Law (#1991, Chapter 16) as the Finger Lakes region.

Please accept this letter as my full endorsement of the FLTA's effort to secure a NHA designation for the Finger Lakes region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred".

Frederick J. Akshar II
New York State Senator

FJA/nrb



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Economic
Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry

COMMITTEES
Education
Labor
Steering
Transportation
Ways and Means

May 7, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance National Heritage Areas
Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabriza, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yann, NY 14527

Dear Committee Members:

I write to offer my strong support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's application to have the Finger Lakes be designated as a National Heritage Area. The unique history of the Finger Lakes has demonstrated time and time again how its abundant cultural and natural resources have profoundly connected its people and communities together like no other region in the United States.

Because the National Heritage Area title is reserved only for regions whose historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes, it is fitting for the Finger Lakes to receive this esteemed designation. The Finger Lakes Region includes a distinctive landscape that spans fourteen counties and eleven glacial-formed lakes surrounded by rolling hills and the Great Lakes Plain. Offering exceptionally spectacular scenery that boasts a rich history and diverse economy interwoven with agriculture, viticulture, small businesses, manufacturing, recreation, hospitality and tourist attractions, the Finger Lakes Region also includes significant memorials and museums dedicated to achievements of nationally celebrated civil rights trailblazers and the legacy of the Iroquois people. In 2018, an estimated 5 million visitors were drawn to the beauty and culture of the Finger Lakes Region.

In my role as a New York State Assemblymember, I have worked with the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) and have full confidence in their ability to manage a National Heritage Area. The FLTA is the oldest regional Destination Marketing Organization in the United States. It has an impressive track record of partnering with area stakeholders to enrich the economic and cultural attributes of our region. It has administered impactful grants and developed organizations that have worked to protect the beauty and history of the Finger Lakes Region. The FLTA leadership has consistently shown an ability to garner broad community and stakeholder support for their economic and tourism efforts. Their expertise is exactly what the region needs to move forward with the National Heritage Area designation and elevate the Finger Lakes to even greater heights.

I wholeheartedly support the Finger Lakes Region being named a National Heritage Area and that Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance fulfill the responsibility of managing organization.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Bronson
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 847, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4527
DISTRICT OFFICE: 840 University Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607 • 585-244-5256

ALBANY OFFICE:
111 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 815-2243
FAX (518) 426-6081

E-MAIL ADDRESS:
BROUK@NYSenate.gov

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SAMRA G. BROUK
Senator, 55TH District

DISTRICT OFFICE:
FACETS LANDING
SUITE 210
FAIRPORT NEW YORK 14450
(516) 225-1800
FAX (516) 225-1111

May 14, 2021

Cynthia Kimble
President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Re: Designation of the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area

Dear President Kimble,

I am writing to express my support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) and their efforts to obtain a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Finger Lakes region.

As the Senator for New York's 55th Senate District, I am proud to represent towns in Ontario County that border, or are within the watersheds of four Finger Lakes: Canandaigua Lake, Honeoye Lake, Canadice Lake and Hemlock Lake. The Finger Lakes provide some of the most beautiful landscapes in all of NY. Many of my constituents rely on these lakes for fishing. The Finger Lakes also attract many tourists from around the state and the country, and thus, provide our local communities with much needed additional business and revenue.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants, overseeing re-granting when applicable and developing organizations to protect crucial assets, such as FLOWPA with its mission to protect the waters of the Finger Lakes. FLTA is an organization that has the unique nexus of bringing together public and private support.

For these reasons, I ask you to consider this application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. If I may provide further information, please email or call my office: brouk@nysenate.gov, 585-223-1800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Brouk".

Senator Samra Brouk
55th District



May 6, 2021

Colleen Fabrizi, Chair, NHA Committee
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake St.
Penn Yan, NY 14527

In re: Finger Lakes National Heritage Area

To the Committee,

As the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce, serving 500 members across Ontario, Monroe, Seneca, Wayne, Yates and Schuyler Counties, we support the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

For over a century, the 14-county Finger Lakes Region has benefited from the destination marketing efforts of Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance. The Alliance's leadership, reputation and proven contributions to the regions travel and tourism marketplace make them an attractive and logical choice as the lead agency in advocating for the region's designation.

While diverse in its geography and culture, the Finger Lakes region shares a rich history in areas of Women's Rights, Native American History, The Industrial Revolution, Agricultural Advancements and Wine Making. Set against a backdrop of natural beauty, heritage architecture and abundant natural resources, the Finger Lakes is a multi-dimensional attraction to people of all ages.

In short, the Finger Lakes region is a physical manifestation of NPS' definition of a National Heritage Area: "...places where historic, cultural, and natural resources combine to form cohesive, nationally important landscapes... large lived-in landscapes."

We believe that a National Heritage Area designation is timely, appropriate, and potentially transformative for the people and economy of our region.

On behalf of the Board of the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce,

Ethan S. Fogg, MPA
President

April 12, 2021



**Cayuga Lake
Scenic Byway, Inc.**
121 East Court Street
Ithaca, New York 14850
www.cayugalake.com
info@cayugalake.com

Sue Poelvoorde
Executive Director

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- Cathy Misspaugh, Chair
Byway Resident
- Jeff Kostick, Vice Chair
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- Kate Supron, Secretary
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- Keri McConnell
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- Nancy O'Leary
Yale College
- Marcus Rehl
Finger Lakes State Parks Region

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Ithaca/Tompkins County Convention
& Visitors Bureau
- Karen Kuhl
Cayuga County Convention &
Visitors Bureau
- Jeff Shipley
Seneca County Tourism
- Harriet Haynes
Seneca County Planning
- Nick Helmholdt
Tompkins County Planning
- Kari Turwillger
Cayuga County Planning

Enjoy the Ride!

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
National Heritage Area Committee
Attn: Ms. Coleen Fabrizi, Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

The Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway, Inc. Board of Directors is proud to submit this letter of support for Congressional designation of a National Heritage Area (NHA) for the Finger Lakes region of New York state. With a focus on sharing information about the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Cayuga Lake basin, we are keenly aware of the significance the area played in shaping our country. The many stories of our past and present are interwoven throughout the communities across the region. Having a mechanism to connect the stories into a cohesive framework, as the NHA will allow, benefits us all and will ensure that future generations not lose their connection to the past and its relevance to the present.

The key component that ties our collective past together is the glacially-formed landscape. From the Lake Ontario shoreline to the border with Pennsylvania, the Finger Lakes region's landscape inspired ingenuity and sustained generations of settlements, and it continues to do so today. To share the stories of our past and present, it will be important to include the 14 counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates in the National Heritage Area boundary.

We understand that once the Finger Lakes NHA is approved by Congress, an entity will need to take on the task to set up the structure under which the NHA will operate. For the past 100+ years, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) has led the way to promote the Finger Lakes region as a premier vacation destination and a quality community to live and work. No one organization knows the region better than the FLTA. We believe that the FLTA has the structure and endurance to facilitate the management of a Finger Lakes NHA, once it receives official designation. We support the FLTA being named the managing entity.

We look forward to being a part and a partner in the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Sue A. Poelvoorde
Executive Director



May 11, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Copies to:
Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand
Congressman John Katko

Subject: Support for Designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area

On behalf of the Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCCVB), the official Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) for Cayuga County, I am writing to express my support for the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Designation. National Heritage designations are a national confirmation of the incredible cultural, natural, and historical significance of the region. This confirmation adds value to all the efforts being done by our cultural and historical sites that work so hard in preserving the history of our region. The economic benefits of the designation will have a profound positive impact for all industries with a particularly significant economic growth potential for the tourism industry, which supports a large percentage of jobs in the Finger Lakes region.

The Finger Lakes Visitor region consist of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties. The region comprises a remarkable conglomerate of tourism assets that work in strong partnerships to tell the story our destination. The national designation would increase these partnership possibilities.

We look forward to collaborating with the National Parks Service and the designated agency. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business communities, and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups towards the joint goal of submitting the original request to the National Park Service. This group effort resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019 and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes. We hope their hard work will culminate in the Finger Lakes National Heritage Designation and we fully support this effort.

Sincerely,

Karen Kuhl
Executive Director
Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Auburn, NY

make some waves

Cayuga County Office of Tourism • 25 South Street • Auburn, NY 13021 • 800-499-9615 • www.TourCayuga.com



415 E. WATER ST. ELMIRA, NY 14901 P: 607.734.4167 F: 607.734.1565

May 14, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Pen Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi

I am writing on behalf of the Chemung County Historical Society to lend our voice in support of the designation of New York's Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

The 14-county Finger Lakes Region has a long, unique and deep history. Shaped by the natural geography unique to the Finger Lakes, this area has been home to vibrant communities dating back long before the arrival of Columbus in the New World. The natural abundance of the area attracted the native tribes as well as the later settlers of European descent. Over time this part of America has been home to important progressive movements, including abolitionism and women's rights. This region was also home to some of America's industrial powerhouses like Eastman-Kodak and Endicott Johnson shoes. This unique part of America offers an incredible mixture of wonderful natural beauty, deep and interesting history and a resurgent sense of itself. Recognizing the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area would be an important step in this regions continued growth.

Given its long and successful record of coordinating regional initiatives on behalf of the Finger Lakes, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is a natural choice to manage a National Heritage Area for our 14-counties. FLTA brings a strong history of working with the region's stakeholders and overseeing grants, and has a comprehensive knowledge of our resources. In addition, FLTA has a proven track record of promoting tourism which has resulted in sustained economic growth.

Thank you for all your work on behalf of this effort.

Sincerely,

Bruce Whitmarsh
Director
Chemung County Historical Society

CHEMUNGVALLEYMUSEUM.ORG



April 6, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Coleen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Coleen", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

I am writing on behalf of the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce to lend our voice in support of the designation of New York's Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

The 14-county Finger Lakes Region has a long history of cooperation and destination marketing. It has been formally designated as a vacation region by New York State for over 50 years, and its member counties have worked cooperatively in partnership with Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) for over a century.

Like other counties in the Finger Lakes, Chemung has found its most effective marketing to come through various regional initiatives that support a shared history. For example, many of our local stories, including Women's Rights, Underground Railroad, Aviation & Soaring, Civil War and Native American History, encompass several counties in the region and are most effectively marketed this way. Likewise, the region's rolling hills, hiking trails, and waterways, unite our counties, and the promotion of these has proven successful in branding the Finger Lakes as an outdoor recreation destination to a global market.

Given its long and successful record of coordinating regional initiatives on behalf of the Finger Lakes, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is a natural choice to manage a National Heritage Area for our 14-counties. FLTA brings a strong history of working with the region's stakeholders and overseeing grants, and has a comprehensive knowledge of our resources. In addition, FLTA has a proven track record of promoting tourism which has resulted in sustained economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kamala A. Keeley", written in a cursive style.

Kamala A. Keeley
President & CEO



SARAH CLARK
Assemblywoman 136th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Aging
Children and Families
Higher Education
Local Governments
Small Business

May 14, 2021

Coleen Fabrizi
National Heritage Area Committee Chair
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

I write in support of National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes region. As a former U.S. Senate staffer for almost 20 years, with more than a decade of that spent serving on behalf of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, I worked closely with advocates and stakeholders in the years-long push to get the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Study Act passed. If designated as a National Heritage Area, the Finger Lakes would benefit from a boon of tourism, and preservation efforts aimed at the region's historic sites, cultural attractions, and natural resources.

Today I have the honor of serving as Assemblywoman in the New York State Legislature, representing the Rochester area located within the Finger Lakes region. It is critical that the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area consist of the 14-county region of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties as codified by New York law, nearly 55 years ago. This designation would reflect the long-standing history of cooperation that exists between these counties, as a tourism destination.

Moreover, I have the utmost confidence in the ability of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to manage, promote, and sustain a National Heritage Area. The FLTA was an invaluable partner to our federal delegation's advocacy and has been a steadfast unifying voice for the region for over one hundred years.

I'm proud to offer my enthusiastic support of this effort. If you have any questions, or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (585) 467-0410.

Sincerely,

Sarah Clark
Assemblywoman

CC: Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator for New York
Cynthia Kimble, President of Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance

DISTRICT OFFICE 1800 Hudson Avenue, Suite 4, Rochester, New York 14617 585-467-0410, FAX: 585-467-5342
ALBANY OFFICE Room 429, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 518-455-5373, FAX: 518-455-5647 EMAIL: clarks@nyassembly.gov

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
JEREMY A. COONEY
56TH DISTRICT

Albany Office:
Room 809, Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2909 • Fax (518) 426-6938

District Office:
7300 West Ridge Rd
Rochester, New York 14626
(585) 225-3650 • Fax (585) 225-3661

E-mail Address: cooney@nysenate.gov
Webpage: cooney.nysenate.gov

Chair
Cities 2
Committees
Codes
Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and
Recreation
Higher Education
Insurance
Procurement and Contracts
Transportation

Coleen Fabrizi
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527

May 24, 2021

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

I write to express my support for the designation of the *Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area* and the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) as the coordinating entity. The region of designation would include the fourteen New York counties designated by state law as the "Finger Lakes Region."

As the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a successful history of administering grants, overseeing regranting, and developing organizations to protect assets, the FLTA is well-positioned to bring together public and private support for a project that will bring national recognition to this unique region.

This designation is an opportunity to grow and develop the historic, cultural, and natural resources that make the Finger Lakes an invaluable asset to our state. FLTA is ready to lead the effort.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (585) 225-3650 if I can provide additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy A. Cooney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeremy A. Cooney
New York State Senator



Conesus Lake Association Inc.

P.O. Box 637
Lakeville, NY 14480-0637

(585) 346-6864
www.conesuslake.org

From: Scott Proctor, President, Conesus Lake Association

To: National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Attn: Finger Lakes NHA / Charles Lawson
12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver Co 80228

Re: Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, Feasibility Study

Chuck, thank you for the time you took to discuss the current feasibility study. Your information was discussed last night with our Board of Directors, and a resolution was unanimously passed supporting both the study and the eventual Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

The Conesus Lake Association has over 1000 members and is dedicated to promoting the health of Conesus Lake (the westernmost Finger Lake) and the safety and welfare of those who live on or use Conesus Lake. We have supported that mission since 1932 and believe support of the NHA is consistent with our mission. Any initiative that can support or promote environmental protection and conservation of this precious resource is strongly endorsed.

Additionally, many of us are aware of the many unique historical aspects of this area, from our Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Groveland Ambuscade of the Clinton-Sullivan Campaign, to Francis Bellamy's Pledge of Allegiance, Clara Barton's Red Cross and our Shaw Sisters in the Women's Suffrage Movement. There are also nine reputed stops on the Underground Railroad within Livingston County utilized by freedom seeking slaves as they crossed Western NY on the way to Canada. Livingston County is also home to the pristine Hemlock Lake and the "Grand Canyon of the East"– Letchworth Park! We believe highlighting these aspects would be of benefit to many.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support and input.

Regards

Scott C. Proctor

Scott Proctor
President, Conesus Lake Association
"All of us...doing our part."



Cornell Botanic Gardens
Cornell University
124 Comstock Knoll Drive
Ithaca, New York 14850-2799
cornellbotanicgardens.org
T: 607.255.2400
E: botanicgardens@cornell.edu

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

April 27, 2021

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

I am writing on behalf of Cornell Botanic Gardens in support of the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area. As Cornell University's Botanic Gardens, we are a major educational and tourism destination for local, regional, national, and international visitors within the proposed area. The designation of the National Heritage Area aligns very strongly with our mission, "inspiring people—through cultivation, conservation, and education—to understand, appreciate, and nurture plants and the cultures they sustain."

We support the plan for the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area and believe our region's rich natural, cultural, and historic resources will add significantly to the National Park System's Program that celebrates our diverse heritage. We believe the designation will further support local economic development, environmental stewardship, an improved quality of life, and will augment efforts to educate diverse audiences. We support plans to include the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates, as our region's counties have worked together for over 100 years and as an entity, the FLTA is recognized by funding and granting institutions.

In closing, we strongly encourage designating the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area, and appreciate the opportunity to share this letter of support.

Best regards

Todd Bittner
Director of Natural Areas
Cornell Botanic Gardens

CULTIVATION CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Cornell Cooperative Extension Steuben County

20 East Morris Street
Bath, New York 14810
Phone: 607.664.2300
Fax: 607.776.9103
Email: steuben@cornell.edu
PutKnowledgeToWork.org

March 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is meant to show our support as Cornell Cooperative Extension Steuben County for our region to be designated as a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area. Our area is rich with history, agriculture, and tourism but most importantly, opportunity for growth. Becoming a designated National Heritage Area would create more opportunity for our area around economic growth in order to support tourism and other natural resource projects.

Not only would it be beneficial for our region to get this designation, our partnership as the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) makes our region a top candidate for consideration. The FLTA would be able to better utilize the designation with strong established partnerships and a history of supporting economic growth through grants and developing organizations to grow tourism and the use of natural resources in our area.

As an organization that supports best practices and education on agriculture, natural resources and keeping things local, Cornell Cooperative Extension Steuben County is excited to show support for this project.

Thank you for considering the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance counties to be designated as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,



Theresa (Tess) McKinley
Executive Director
Cornell Cooperative Extension Steuben County

*Building strong communities through education and collaboration in the areas of
Agriculture & Natural Resources, Financial Literacy, Nutrition Education and 4-H Youth Development
Cornell Cooperative Extension in Steuben County provides equal program and employment opportunities.*



April 26, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Coleen:

I wish to express on behalf of the Corning Area Chamber of Commerce, our excitement and support for *the designation of a **Finger Lakes National Heritage Area*** because it will benefit our region's economic growth and enhance the opportunity to share the collective stories of our assets.

I believe the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area should consist of the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's (FLTA) 14-county region has been a state legislated tourism destination since 1967. For over 100 years, our region's counties have worked together and as an organization, the FLTA is recognized by funding and granting institutions.

In support of this designation, FLTA is a well-positioned organization to be able to provide the management expertise, funding ability as well as the energy and imagination necessary to create and sustain a NHA. The FLTA is the oldest regional Destination Marketing Organization in the nation, with a strong history of partnering with stakeholders, administering grants, developing complementary organizations that support our natural resources, promote tourism and support and sustain economic growth. I am also aware that FLTA has spent over a year collecting information and resources for the NPS feasibility team and is strongly committed to its success.

The Corning Area Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to working with our area partners and community organizations. Given the leadership inherently provided by FLTA, I feel that there has never been a better time to recognize our region's rich assets and resources ... I strongly encourage you to approve the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area to be enjoyed by visitors and our residents!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise K. Ackley".

Denise K. Ackley
President
CORNING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
1 W. Market Street, Suite 202
Corning, NY 14830



April 22, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear NHA Designation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Corning's Gaffer District, Inc. in Corning, NY located in Steuben County one of the 14 counties collectively known as the Finger Lakes Region in Upstate New York. We wholeheartedly support the effort you are leading to have the Finger Lakes Region designated as a National Heritage Area.

The Finger Lakes Region is an extraordinary collection of stories ranging from historically significant happenings that impacted the nation as well as the communities they occurred in. It is also an incredible treasure of natural resources that leave residents and visitors alike spellbound by the magnificence every time they see them.

It is the home of thousands of entrepreneurial stories that include small independent businesses and still others that began as small enterprises and proceeded to become large businesses such as Corning Inc. and Kodak. The innovation in each of those companies and others has impacted the world and continues to this day. Whether you are reflecting on the right to vote, civil rights movement or the underground railroad, each of those endeavors not only have a place in our nation's history but also in the Finger Lakes Region. We are a region so rich in history and pride-filled preservation of that history that we would be elated to have the opportunity to encapsulate our story as a National Heritage Area. The designation would be a wonderful cornerstone in the future economic growth of our region as a whole.

We strongly support the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to provide the management of the Finger Lakes Region National Heritage Area should it be designated. Your strong history as the oldest regional Destination Marketing Organization in the nation, your strong history of partnering with stakeholders, administering grants, developing complementary organizations that support our natural resources, promote tourism and support and sustain economic growth are essential to the long term sustainability of the Finger Lakes Region National Heritage Area.

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide our input in support of this effort and thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Maxa".

Rick Maxa
President, Board of Directors
Corning's Gaffer District, Inc.

114 Pine Street, Suite 202 • Corning, NY 14830 • (607) 937-6292 • Fax (607) 936-3112 • www.gafferdistrict.com

May 19, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

RE: National Heritage Area Support Letter

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

I am writing on behalf of the Corning Museum of Glass in support of the efforts underway to seek National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes Vacation area and the inclusion of all fourteen counties designated by New York State Law: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates.

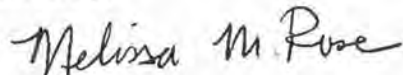
Just some brief history if we may! The Corning Museum of Glass is a world-renowned attraction in the Finger Lakes. It was established in 1951 by Corning Glass Works (now Corning Incorporated) as a gift to the nation for the company's 100th anniversary. Annually, we welcome just under half a million visitors from around the world and the Museum's campus is home to the world's most extensive collection of glass, the world's foremost library on glass, and one of the top glass working schools in the world.

Our Museum, located in Steuben County, attracts glass enthusiasts, vacationing families, guests from all over the country, residents, and international visitors alike. We feel confident that the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area will greatly benefit our region's economic growth and further increase tourism to our beautiful region.

In addition, we strongly support Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area. All fourteen counties have been well represented by FLTA spanning many years of service, and we have full confidence that FLTA has the expertise necessary to create, manage, sustain and support a National Heritage Area.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Melissa M. Rose
Tourism Sales Manager, Corning Museum of Glass

**CORNING
MUSEUM
OF GLASS**

Experience C O R T L A N D COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

March 22, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
Attn: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527
Re: Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Designation Support

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

The Cortland County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc. (CCCVB) is in full support of the sought-after designation for the Finger Lakes region (the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates) as a National Heritage Area. This designation will not only benefit our region's economic growth but will assist in telling the collective stories of the assets in the region.

In giving support to this designation, I recognize that we would not be at this moment in time were it not for the efforts of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA). The Finger Lakes region is proud to be home to FLTA, the oldest regional Destination Marketing Organization in the nation, and the 100-plus year history of FLTA proves that they are uniquely positioned to provide the management expertise, funding ability, and not least of all the energy and imagination necessary to sustain a National Heritage Area. On behalf of the entire tourism community of Cortland County, I appreciate all the work that FLTA has done up to this moment and I look forward to continuing to work with them in their designated role as managers of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office.

Sincerely,



Meghan N. Lawton
Executive Director
Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
Official Tourism Promotion Agency for Cortland County

Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau
42 Main Street Cortland, NY 13045 • 607-753-8463 • ExperienceCortland.com

Suzanne Pinneo

From: Cindy Kimble
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 8:28 PM
To: Suzanne Pinneo
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support

Please print

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S®6 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Charlotte Jane Dickens <charlottejanedickens@outlook.com>
Date: 5/25/21 7:53 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Cindy Kimble <cindyk@fingerlakes.org>
Subject: Letter of Support

Backbone Ridge History Group
P.O. Box 62
Trumansburg, NY 14886



May 25, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Colleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Colleen Fabrizi:

On behalf of the Backbone Ridge History Group's Board of Trustees, I would like to express our group's support of the Committee's effort to obtain a National Heritage Designation for the Finger Lakes Area. We feel this area has a unique historical and cultural background that makes it a very suitable area for such a designation. Within the fourteen county area of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates there have been many events of

historic and cultural import that deserve recognition and further national awareness of those events and background.

Originally an area of Iroquois settlements, then a significant area in the Revolutionary War with the Battle at Newtown and the Clinton/Sullivan Campaign along Seneca Lake, etc. in which settlements of the Iroquois were destroyed because of their aid to the British, this area was an important segment of Revolutionary War history. The area also played a part in the War of 1812 with Britain. It was a part of the "Burned Over" District for its contribution to a Great Religious Revival, then had significant involvement with the Abolition Movement, the Women's Rights Movement in the 1800s, especially at the Women's Rights Convention in 1848 at Seneca Falls and was the home of a number of leaders of that movement as well. Prior to the Civil War this area was very active in the Underground Railroad. In the Nineteenth Century the Finger Lakes were alive with involvement in important social movements of the nation. Greater recognition for the part this area played would allow for this area to take its proper place in our country's awareness of its contribution to our national heritage in the Nineteenth Century and prior to that as well. Then in the Twentieth Century came the Resettlement in the areas in Schuyler and Seneca Counties that became first the Hector Land Use Area and later the Finger Lakes National Forest.

It is in this Resettlement history, the Backbone Ridge History Group finds a purpose, and a special reason we as a group see this possible designation as such a significant step for our region. Our mission statement adopted at our group's inception in 2006 is as follows: "To identify and facilitate public access to sources of information documenting the history of the people, communities, and lands in and around the Finger Lakes National Forest and promote the study of this history." Since that time the BRHG became a 501©3 not for profit organization and is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents as a Educational organization. It has presented numerous programs to the public for the purpose that was stated in our mission statement. We have studied what happened at the time of 1920s and 1930s as farmers and families were apparently forced from the lands during the Depression. The group worked with archaeologists who excavated some of the farmsteads to learn what their living circumstances had been prior to homeowners leaving the land. Now we are involved in the transcription of land surveys done in 1790 and getting that information into GPS so that it will be available to the public.

We heartily endorse the role being played by Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in attempting to gain a Finger Lakes Area National Heritage Designation for the boon it will likely bring to the Finger Lakes in its greater national recognition. Parts of our area may be included in the Erie Canal National Heritage Designation but it does not encompass this entire area or completely cover the rest of true picture of the contribution that the Finger Lakes have made to this nation. This designation offers a more complete coverage of the cultural and historical significance of this uniquely beautiful region that is regularly visited by tourists. A deepening of knowledge could only improve the economic viability and significance of an area already celebrated for its special beauty.

Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Dickens,
President of the Backbone Ridge Historical Group



May 9, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this letter to you to share my unequivocal support for the Finger Lakes to be designated a National Heritage Area to help benefit its economic growth and to perpetuate its cultural, natural, and historical richness. As a regional tour operator, I have spent the last 14 years sharing the wonders of this region with visitors from all over the world. I have shared my rationale for why the Finger Lakes is primed and ready for this designation through the Public Comment Submission Portal.

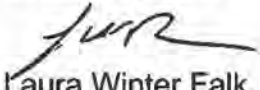
The Finger Lakes is an incredible 9000 square mile region that consists of the New York counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onandaga, Schulyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates. It has been recognized by New York State as a tourism destination since 1967, but even before then, these 14 counties have worked together promoting the region as a whole through the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA).

As a former member of its Board of Directors, I understand first-hand the management expertise, funding ability and passion that the current FLTA Board and staff possesses in order to successfully create and sustain a National Heritage Area. Founded over 100 years ago in 1919, FLTA is the oldest regional DMO in the US. They have a rich and successful history of forming partnerships with key stakeholders, acquiring and administering private and public grants, and developing organizations and programming aimed to support and preserve our natural resources, tourism, and overall economic growth of the region. I know the FLTA team has already committed significant time and effort to assist the National Park System with their feasibility study and continue to be significantly committed to its success. Under their stewardship, I know the Finger Lakes will thrive as a National Heritage Area.

Experience! The Finger Lakes, LLC • 501 Warren Rd • Ithaca New York 14850

If you have any questions or would like any further details regarding my support for this effort, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely yours,



Laura Winter Falk, PhD
Owner & President
Experience! The Finger Lakes, LLC
Ph. 607-233-4818
Email. Laura@experiencefingerlakes.com

Experience! The Finger Lakes, LLC • 501 Warren Rd • Ithaca New York 14850



GENESEE COUNTRY VILLAGE & MUSEUM

June 1, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi

I am writing this letter on behalf of Genesee Country Village & Museum to express our full support for the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Genesee Country Village & Museum is the largest living history museum in New York and the third largest in the country and was founded with the goal of preserving and sharing architecture of the Genesee region with a focus on life in the 19th century. The Museum consists of the Historic Village, with 68 buildings moved to the site from throughout Western New York, the Wehle Gallery, and the Genesee Country Nature Center. We have a staff of almost 200 and more than 98,000 visitors per year, many of whom are visiting the Finger Lakes as tourists.

A centralized identity for the 14 county Finger Lakes region will be tremendously helpful in attracting even more visitors and growing the economy of what is a primarily rural area. It will also allow us to tell a more unified story to visitors about what the rich history of the region encompasses.

We also support the naming of the Finger Lake Tourism Alliance as the manager of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area. We have worked with the FLTA for many years and know that they have the expertise and connections to manage this undertaking.

Please feel free to contact me at BWehle@gcv.org or 585-294-8245 with any questions.

Best regards,

Becky Wehle
President & CEO



P.O. Box 310, 1410 Flint Hill Road, Mumfords, New York 14511-0310 | 585-538-6822 | FAX 585-538-2887 | www.gcv.org



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Livingston County Government Center
6 Court Street, Room 305
Geneseo, New York 14454-1043

Telephone: (585) 243-7550
Fax: (585) 243-7566

www.livingstoncounty.us/planningboard.htm

June 1, 2021

Charles Lawson
U.S. National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Lawson:

The Livingston County Environmental Management Council was pleased to learn about the ongoing feasibility study to designate the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

Livingston County is wholly within and proudly joins as neighbors to adjoining counties and municipalities that make up the Finger Lakes Region. The Council would like to express its full support of the National Park Service's efforts to designate the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area. The Council recognizes that the Finger Lakes Region encompasses significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. These resources, shaped over time from patterns of human activity and natural geography, have a substantial story to share and would positively add to the national narrative.

The Council also recognizes that the National Heritage Area designation would benefit the local and regional economies within the Finger Lakes Region and may lead to the enhanced protection of significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. It is the mission of the Council to work on the protection, preservation, development and use of the County's natural resources. To this end, the Council urges that the administration of the National Heritage Area establish a balance between economic development and tourism with the protection of our region's resources.

Upon completion of the study, and with Congressional approval, the Livingston County Environmental Management Council would look forward to the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Underhill".

Mary Underhill
Conesus Lake Watershed Manager/Planner

cc: Ian Coyle, County Administrator
Angela Ellis, Deputy County Administrator



Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council
Official Tourism Promotion Agency for the Finger Lakes Region of New York State
P.O. Box 1011
Pittsford, NY 14534

Re: Support Letter for Finger Lakes National Heritage Area
May 25th, 2021

The 14-county area that makes up the Finger Lakes Vacation Region is a designated tourism region by New York State. As such we have many commonalities, yet we also have many things that set each county apart. Each county's tourism promotional efforts are headed up by that county's designated Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA). The Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council (FLRTC) is the regional tourism agency designated by I Love NY to represent the Finger Lakes Vacation Region, and has 14 equal voices from the 14 county TPAs. The 14 counties (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates) unanimously support the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area designation by the National Park Service. Each of our counties have special natural and/or historical product that augment the importance of the region.

The Finger Lakes region comprises a remarkable conglomerate of tourism assets (natural wonders, museum, wineries, restaurants, parks, etc...) that work in partnerships to tell the story our destination. The national designation would increase these partnership possibilities.

FLRTC looks forward to collaborating with the National Parks Service and the designated agency. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, founded in 1919, has worked since 2014 with regional and area civic organizations, local jurisdictions and local governments, business communities, and numerous other stakeholders and non-profit groups towards the joint goal of submitting the original request to the National Park Service. This group effort resulted in the Feasibility Study funding in 2019 and continues to work with the National Park Service to gather input from the public regarding the creation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes. We hope their hard work will culminate in the Finger Lakes National Heritage Designation and we fully support this effort.


Christine Worth, Board Chair
Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council




Karen Kuhl, Board Vice Chair
Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council



PAMELA J. HUNTER
 Assemblywoman 128th District
 Onondaga County

THE ASSEMBLY
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 ALBANY

CHAIR
 Subcommittee on Women Veterans
 COMMITTEES
 Energy
 Insurance
 Social Services
 Transportation
 Veterans' Affairs

March 16, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
 ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
 309 Lake Street
 Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

I am writing in support of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's (FLTA) proposal to designate the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area. The region of designation would include the 14 counties defined by NYS Law (#1991, Chapter 16 approved 4/27/67). This area should remain intact throughout the designation process.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is a vital coordinating entity in the region. It is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants, overseeing regranteeing when applicable and developing organizations to protect the resources of the area, such as the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLOWPA) with its mission to protect the waters of the lakes.

The FLTA is an authority on everything relating to the Finger Lakes region. They know the immense beauty and wonder of the area and act as the nexus of public and private support for the region. This organization would be ideal for acting as the coordinating entity in establishing the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area.

If there is any additional information or support I can provide in relation to designating the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Assemblywoman Pamela J. Hunter
 128th Assembly District



May 13, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear FLTA National Heritage Area Designation Committee,

This correspondence serves as the official letter of support from the Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association, Inc. (FLWC) to the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) for the Finger Lakes to be designated a National Heritage Area. The FLWC Board of Directors unanimously and enthusiastically confirms these three principles:

1. FLWC supports the Designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area because it will benefit our region's economic growth and will tell the collective stories of our assets.
2. FLWC believes the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area should consist of the 14 counties which make up the New York State-legislated tourism destination, which are Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates Counties.
3. FLWC has the utmost confidence in the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to provide management proficiency, funding ability, and the expertise necessary to create and sustain a National Heritage Area.

A National Heritage Area designation will honor our region's breathtaking landscapes, recognize our myriad cultural assets, pay tribute to the historically significant contributions made by the men and women of this region, and so much more. A National Heritage Area designation will also help to engender pride of place for our residents and visitors, which adds value and appeal to the entire Finger Lakes region, New York State, and our Nation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Finger Lakes Wine Country, we commend the FLTA for their leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts toward the Finger Lakes region being designated as a National Heritage Area and support this initiative wholeheartedly!

Sincerely,

Laury Ellen Ward
President

Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association, Inc.

Laury@FingerLakesWineCountry.com

Office 607.936.0703

Mobile 717.307.0244

Finger Lakes Wine Country | 1 West Market Street, Suite 203 | Corning, New York 14830
www.FingerLakesWineCountry.com

TOWN OF HOMER
31 NORTH MAIN STREET
HOMER, NY 13077
PH. 607-749-4581 FAX 607-749-3364
clerk@townofhomer.org

May 12, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
209 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

On behalf of the Town Board of the Town of Homer, I would like to state my full support for the designation by the National Park Service of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, consisting of the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates.

Cortland County, in which the Town of Homer is located, is uniquely situated within this area since a major transportation route, Interstate 81, bisects the County allowing easy access to this upstate region. The two branches of the Tioughnioga River flow through the Town, which provided transportation for the early farmers who first located here in 1791, as well as for the indigenous Americans that preceded them. The Town of Homer still remains primarily as an agricultural area, with farms ranging from large modern dairies to small traditional Amish farms to local vegetable and flower producers to local breweries. The region has great potential to be a major attraction for the growing market in agro-tourism.

The Town contains a large registered historic district and served as the home for such notables as women's rights activist Amelia Jenks Bloomer, Cornell University co-founder Andrew D. White, and three men who played important roles in the Abraham Lincoln administration – portrait painter Francis B. Carpenter, assistant personal secretary William O. Stoddard, and detective Eli Devoe.

We strongly support having the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance lead this effort. As a well-managed and long-standing organization, they are well positioned to provide the expertise, energy and imagination to make the most of this designation.

The designation of our area as part of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area is critical to sustaining our economic growth, protecting our plentiful natural resources, and maintaining our many historical sites that played such an important role in the growth of our nation.

I encourage you to make every effort to make this Congressional designation come to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick J. Forbes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Frederick J. Forbes
Town Supervisor



Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

May 6, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing this letter to offer the support of Bristol Mountain to the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area. We offer this support because we strongly believe that the designation will help the economic growth of the region and will help to unify our identity and tell the collective stories of the many incredible assets located in the Finger Lakes. It is our belief that the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area should consist of the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates. This 14-county region has been a state legislated tourism destination since 1967.

Our region, with its four different and distinct seasons, is beautiful and full of natural assets that were created thousands of years when the Finger Lakes were formed by glaciers. The outdoor assets in our community can not be found anywhere in the world with the eleven fresh water lakes, beautiful hills, and breathtaking views. The region draws people from all over the world to ski, hike, zipline, swim, kayak, wakeboard, and enjoy the great outdoors. The history and culture of people living and recreating in this beautiful region make it an excellent candidate for the designation of a National Heritage Area.

The Finger Lakes as a region has worked together for over 100 years through the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, the longest standing destination marketing organization in the United States. Our continued commitment to work together as a region, makes the region uniquely prepared for a National Heritage Area designation. We believe that the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, with their longstanding history of partnering with stakeholders, administering grants, engaging the community, supporting our regions assets, and promoting tourism, is positioned to spearhead this project and provide the expertise and imagination to lead and sustain this project forward.

We hope that you take our strong support of the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel P. Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Daniel P. Fuller
President and General Manager

5662 Route 64 • Canandaigua, NY 14424 • 585-374-6000 • www.bristolmountain.com



JEFF GALLAHAN
Assemblyman, 131st District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Racing and Wagering
Committee

COMMITTEES
Aging
Children and Families
Local Governments
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

March 2, 2021

Ms. Cynthia Kimble
President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Re: Designation of the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area

Dear Ms. Kimble,

I am writing to express my support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) and their efforts of obtaining a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Finger Lakes region.

The Finger Lakes region includes 14 counties in New York and as the Assemblyman for the 131st New York Assembly District, I am honored to represent Ontario and a portion of Seneca Counties in the Finger Lakes region. The Finger Lakes are rich in natural beauty and are treasured, not only by locals like me, but by the countless tourists that flock to the area each year.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation. They have thorough experience with grants, whether it be administering them or overseeing regranting. As well, they are committed to protecting our natural resources in the Finger Lakes. To ensure people for generations to come are able to visit and enjoy the Finger Lakes, FLTA assisted in developing the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA), whose mission is to protect and enhance the waters of the Finger Lakes.

For these reasons, I ask you to give full consideration to this application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. If I may provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office via email; gallahanj@nyassembly.gov or by phone; 315-781-2030.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gallahan
Member of Assembly
131st District

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 725, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-3979, FAX: 518-455-7013
DISTRICT OFFICE: 70 Elizabeth Blackwell Street, Geneva, New York 14456 • 315-781-2030, FAX: 315-781-1746
EMAIL: gallahanj@nyassembly.gov

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
SENATOR PATRICK M. GALLIVAN
59TH DISTRICT

April 26, 2021

Ms. Cynthia Kimble, President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Kimble,

I am writing to express my support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's request for a National Heritage Area designation. The Alliance has been a leader in promoting the Finger Lakes region as a world-class destination and has been working diligently to secure the designation since 2014.

The Finger Lakes region, as designated by New York State, is a vast and diverse area that includes 14 counties. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance serves as the coordinating entity in promoting the region, its private-sector attractions, tourism-related businesses and local tourism offices by providing marketing strategies and resources.

As the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation, FLTA has a successful record of accomplishment in administering grants and bringing together public and private sector entities to protect and promote the Finger Lakes region.

I fully support the application by FLTA as it works to secure a National Heritage Area designation. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator-59th District



May 7, 2021

National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Attn: Finger Lakes NHA/ Charles Lawson
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, Colorado 80228

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Geneva, New York is situated in the heart of the Finger Lakes region of Upstate New York, and is steeped in historic and cultural association. We contain the historic capital of the Seneca Indian Nation, have deep influence on the suffrage movement, Revolutionary War campaign sites, significant global influence on agriculture, and importance in areas including glass production, internationally recognized creative art and music accomplishment, and geological and architectural distinction.

And Geneva's neighbors in the Finger Lakes region also have amazing historical and cultural importance and significance, deserving of National Recognition. We invite you to visit our city and Historical Society to learn more about our dedication to the area's heritage, and how we would promote and support being awarded the designation.

Our Geneva City Council, by resolution, strongly joins the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in promoting and supporting your favorable decision in this exciting opportunity to become a registered Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sage Gerling". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sage Gerling
City Manager on Behalf of City Council

cc Cynthia Kimble

President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Office of the City Manager

CITY HALL- 47 CASTLE STREET- GENEVA, NEW YORK 14456
(315) 789-6104 - sgerling@geneva.ny.us - www.cityofgenevany.com



Geneva Historical Society

543 South Main St.
Geneva, NY 14456

(315) 789-5151
Fax: (315) 789-0314

*Geneva Historical
Society Museum*

Balmanno Cottage

Rose Hill Mansion

John Johnston Farm

General Operating
Support From:

State of the Arts



NYSCA



May 6, 2021

Coleen Fabrizi
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Committee
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

On behalf of the Geneva Historical Society, I am writing in support of a National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes. Founded in 1883 the Historical Society tells the stories of Geneva, New York. We share these stories online and in person through the Geneva History Museum, Rose Hill Mansion, and Johnston House.

Geneva, however, is not the only place in the Finger Lakes filled with stories. From the Onöndowa'ga:' (Seneca) settlement at Ganondagan in Victor to the birthplace of women's rights in Seneca Falls to a Confederate prison camp in Elmira, the fourteen counties that make up of the Finger Lakes are filled with stories. Newtown (now a state park) was the site of the only battle in the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign during the American Revolution. Harriet Tubman and William Seward called Auburn home while Mark Twain spent his summers in Elmira writing *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Life on the Mississippi*, and *the Prince and the Pauper*. Various advances in technology have been made in the region including aviation (Hammondsport), motion pictures (Auburn), glass (Corning), agriculture (Geneva) and photography (Rochester). Along with women's rights, the Finger Lakes was the birthplace of spiritualism (Hydesville) and mormonism (Palmyra). Many common household products, like Jell-O (LeRoy) and MiracleGro (Geneva), have also been invented in the Finger Lakes. These and other stories are told in a variety of museums, historic sites, and other cultural heritage sites throughout the Finger Lakes. And they are not just a Finger Lakes story or a New York State story but part of our national story.

It seems natural for the Finger Lakes to be a National Heritage Area. With over 100 years of serving and representing cultural heritage tourism in the region, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is the best organization to be coordinating this project. I urge the National Park Service to move forward with the next step in designating the Finger Lakes a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Kerry Lippincott
Executive Director
Geneva Historical Society

info@genevahistoricalociety.com

www.genevahistoricalociety.com



May 3, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Re: Designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

I support the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area as it will benefit the entire region's economic growth as well as expand the opportunities to tell the stories of the region which has a rich tapestry of history.

The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area should consist of the counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingstone, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates which is all part of The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance 14-county region has been a state legislated tourism destination since 1967. The counties have worked together for over 100 years and as a collective entity, is recognized by funding and grant institutions.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is uniquely positioned to provide management expertise, funding ability along with the energy and imagination necessary to create and sustain a National Heritage Area. They are the oldest regional Destination Marketing Organization in the nation, with a strong history of partnering with stakeholders, administering grants, developing complementary organizations that support their natural resources, promote tourism and support and sustain economic growth. They have worked tirelessly for over a year gathering knowledge and resources for the NPS feasibility team and are totally committed to its success.

Sincerely,

Julie L. Gilbert, CDME CTP
Vice President, Sales & Marketing
Destination Niagara USA

Destination Niagara USA | 10 Rainbow Boulevard | Niagara Falls, NY USA 14303
P 1.877.FALLS.US | 716.285.0809 | niagarafallsusa.com | [@niagarafallsusa](https://www.instagram.com/niagarafallsusa)



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE #78
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-225-8811

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
ARMED SERVICES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

I write in support of the nomination of the Finger Lakes Region in New York to be designated a National Heritage Area through the National Park Service. This designation will ensure that the fourteen counties composing New York's Finger Lakes are properly recognized as a natural, cultural, and historic resource which forms a nationally important landscape.

New York's eleven Finger Lakes form a contiguous area of exceptional ecological, historic, and economic importance. Spanning fourteen counties across the state, the Finger Lakes represent a pristine natural landmark that is home to a vast diversity of wildlife, vegetation, and natural beauty. Furthermore, the region's museums, art galleries, theater companies, and of course world-renown wineries, represent a noteworthy cultural and economic zone which generates more than \$3 billion per year in economic activity and employment for more than 50,000 people. As such, there are few better regions than the Finger Lakes to join the nation's 55 other National Heritage Areas.

The requested designation will ensure the pristine natural beauty and cultural history of the Finger Lakes region is preserved for future generations, and will further promote the vitality of the region. Through the designation process, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has my support to serve as the National Heritage Area coordinating entity. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the United States, and has an established track record of both protecting the Finger Lakes' natural environments and successfully administering grants to the betterment of the region. Designating the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area will not only be a recognition of its unique topography, but also raise awareness of its historical significance as well as solidify its cultural legacy.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Anisa Dhillon, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Green Mountain and Finger Lakes
National Forests
Hector Ranger District

5218 State Route 414
Hector, NY 14841
607-546-4470
Fax: 607-546-4474

File Code: 1500
Date: May 25, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
Attn: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yann, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

I apologize that this letter is bit late, but I wanted to ensure that the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance was aware of the Finger Lakes National Forest agrees with designating the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area. The benefits to the region could be quite substantial from an increase in economic growth and the ability to tell our story to more people. The National Forest has always been a hidden gem in the area, and it's very exciting for us to be able to reach more people, so they can enjoy the great area and get outdoors.

The 14-county region (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates) truly makes the most sense as it covers all of the Finger Lakes. In addition is also makes the most sense for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to manage this National Heritage Designation. Of any group, they are probably the best suited and have their hands in all areas of the Finger Lakes.

Again, I wanted to extend my support for the designation of the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area. This is not only a great place to live and work, but also for visitors to come in an explore. There is not a lack of things to do, see and explore in our region!

Sincerely,

X

Signed by: Department of Agriculture
JODIE L. VANSELOW
District Ranger



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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TOWN OF HECTOR
SCHUYLER COUNTY
5097 NYS ROUTE 227
BURDETT, NY 14818-9768
(607) 546-5286
FAX (607) 546-5200

May 12, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

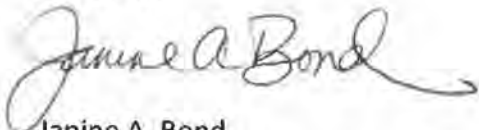
To Whom It May Concern:

As the town current Bookkeeper and HR administrator and previous Smith Park manager for the Town of Hector, I want to express my support of the proposed designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area for many reasons. I support this designation primarily because it will benefit our region's economic growth and tell the collective stories of our assets.

The collective history in our townships throughout the region includes the development of entrepreneurial, agricultural and cultural happenings in the Finger Lakes Region that I believe have also touched our nation's history significantly. We are a township and a region that has an abundance of extraordinary natural landscapes which includes our waterways and trail system that are passionately enjoyed by both residents and visitors. Attaining the designation as a National Heritage Area will unlock many opportunities to tell our story to a greater audience and invite more people to enjoy our incredible landscapes in a variety of ways that will help our long-term sustainability and regional economy.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Janine A. Bond
Bookkeeper & HR Administrator
Town of Hector

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

INSURANCE



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS
AND RECREATION

RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

RECEIVED MAR 11 2021

SP

March 1, 2021

Ms. Cynthia Kimble, President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yann, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Kimble,

It is my pleasure to support the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's (FLTA) efforts to designate the Finger Lakes tourism region as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

The NHA designation would include the 14 counties designated as the Finger Lakes region under the current New York State law. It is critical to ensure the service area defined by this law remains intact throughout this process for future funding opportunities.

Additionally, please know I support the FLTA as the coordinating entity. The FLTA is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants, overseeing re-granting when applicable and developing organizations to protect assets, such as FLOWPA with its mission to protect the waters of the Finger Lakes. FLTA is an organization that has the unique nexus of bringing together public and private support, exactly what is needed as they work toward the designation of a NHA.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-455-2366 or helming@nysenate.gov.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Helming', written over a white background.

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District

Geneva: 425 Exchange Street, Geneva, NY 14456 • (315) 568-9810 • FAX: (315) 789-1946
Albany: Room 517 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247 • (518) 455-2366 • FAX: (518) 426-6953
www.helming.nysenate.gov • helming@nysenate.gov





John Fletcher
President – Historic Owego Marketplace
owegomERCHANTS@gmail.com
Owego.org

National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Attn: Finger Lakes NHA/Charles Lawson
12795 West Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80228.

RE: Finger Lakes National Heritage Area

The Historic Owego Marketplace (HOM) has a long-standing relationship with the Historic Village of Owego, spanning 4 decades. Our organization was originally conceived and granted 5013c non-profit status in 1978 as the Riverow Restoration Corporation. We aspire to make Owego not just a great place to visit, but a place to live and work, while enriching the experiences of visitors to our area. We represent over 50 small businesses.

The term "Small Town America" is defined throughout pop culture, political culture and history to describe a close-knit community, a world in which the quality of life that once was, still thrives. "Small Town America" is a place where everyone knows who you are, a town where the residents rely on one another from day to day. In a world where these communities appear to be dwindling and in decline, Owego is re-defining what it means to be "Small Town America."

Our unique shops, restaurants and over night historic lodges frequently play host to those traveling to or from the Finger Lakes region, or traveling from New York City to visit the beauty of upstate New York. A common phrase we hear from our guests is "wow, it's just like out of a movie."

We believe it is not only important to preserve these cherished towns, but to celebrate them and secure their future, particularly one so regularly visited as a day trip and overnight destination in the Finger Lakes Region. Owego truly is the gateway to the Finger Lakes, and inclusion in the Finger Lakes National Heritage area will further help secure this unique town for future generations.

Sincerely,



5/25/2021

John Fletcher
President – Historic Owego Marketplace

P.O. Box 425
Owego, NY 13827



Historic Palmyra	5 museums 1 destination
132 Market Street	www.historicpalmyra.com
Palmyra, NY 14522	(315) 597-6981

May 8, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
National Heritage Area Designation Committee
309 Lake Street Penn Yan, NY 14527

Attn: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

As President of Historic Palmyra's Board of Trustees, I would like to express the support of our organization for the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in our region and the appointment of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to serve as the managing body for this Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Our region has an abundance of riches - in resources, natural beauty, recreation and history. We have been at the center of some of America's most incredible history - from the epic battles of the War of 1812, to the digging of the Erie Canal, to the Underground Railroad and Women's Suffrage. Frederick Douglas, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Katie Stanton and Sojourner Truth are our ambassadors.

Two major religions were birthed in this region. And of course, our museums are first rate - particularly the five amazing museums of Historic Palmyra! Our rich history combined with our many natural assets such as our lakes, the Seaway Trail, our wines and wineries, the raw beauty of areas such as Watkins Glen and the Montezuma Swamp to name just a few, is unrivaled. Our sport and trophy fishing are the envy of many regions not so blessed as ours. The designation of National Heritage Area is well and richly deserved. All of this translates to economic growth for our region if properly managed and maximized. As the oldest Destination Marketing Organization in the US, the FLTA has the knowledge, resources and experience to best create and sustain a National Heritage Area in our region. Specifically, I refer to the counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates; which have been a state legislated tourism destination since 1919. We have been working together for over 100 years; and the FLTA is well recognized by funding/granting institutions. Historic Palmyra plans to continue growing right along with FLTA and the NHA.

Historic Palmyra is committed to doing its part to ensure the success of the FLTA and a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area. We look forward to our collective success.

Respectfully,

HISTORIC PALMYRA

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca W. Tomkiewicz".

Rebecca Tomkiewicz
Chairperson



HOFFMAN
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATES

Grant Writing and
Proposal Development
Government Relations
Nonprofit & Community
Entrepreneurship

March 13, 2021

NPS, Denver Service Center
Attn Finger Lakes NHA/Charles Lawson
12795 W Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Lawson:

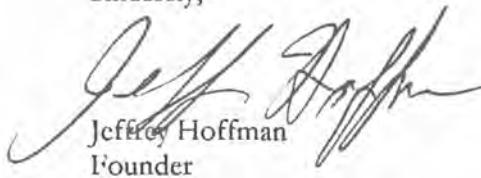
In 2012 I facilitated a 4-month project, studying the feasibility of creating an "Institute" to interpret the history of the Finger Lakes region. The introduction to our final report stated,

"The rich history of upstate NY is broken up by town and village, with many distinct historical societies. Nowhere is it all brought together to tell the comprehensive story of the region, which links significant events and movements associated with religious revivals and social movements (Burned-Over District, Millerism, Shakers, Mormons/LDS, spiritualism, to name a few). The purpose of this project is to explore the possibilities and potential of establishing an *Upstate Institute for Social History...*"

I am not a professional expert in cultural movements, recreation, natural history or conservation. However, I do have 30 years of experience as a professional fundraiser. I would love to be involved in this project, with my ultimate goal of overseeing the creation of a 501c "Friends of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area."

Thank you for your time and for your leadership in bringing this long-overdue, national recognition to our region.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Hoffman
Founder

Enc. 2010 Upstate Institute report

1831 Whiskey Hill Road ■ Waterloo, New York 13165 ■ (315) 681-3919 ■ Hoffman13165@gmail.com

Holiday Inn
760 East Water Street
Elmira, NY 14901
t: 607.734.4211
f: 607.734.3549
1.800.HOLIDAY
holidayinn.com



May 14, 2021

To: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Committee Chair

From: Allen Fusco, Chemung County CVB Chair

I am writing on behalf of the Chemung County CVB to lend our voice in support of the designation of New York's Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

The 14-county Finger Lakes Region has a long history of cooperation and destination marketing. It has been formally designated as a vacation region by New York State for over 50 years, and its member counties have worked cooperatively in partnership with Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) for over a century. Like other counties in the Finger Lakes, Chemung has found its most effective marketing to come through various regional initiatives that support a shared history. For example, many of our local stories, including Women's Rights, Underground Railroad, Aviation & Soaring, Civil War and Native American History, encompass several counties in the region and are most effectively marketed this way. Likewise, the region's rolling hills, hiking trails, and waterways, unite our counties, and the promotion of these has proven successful in branding the Finger Lakes as an outdoor recreation destination to a global market.

Given its long and successful record of coordinating regional initiatives on behalf of the Finger Lakes, Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is a natural choice to manage a National Heritage Area for our 14-counties. FLTA brings a strong history of working with the region's stakeholders and overseeing grants and has a comprehensive knowledge of our resources. In addition, FLTA has a proven track record of promoting tourism which has resulted in sustained economic growth.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allen Fusco', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Allen Fusco, Chair
Chemung County CVB

Owned and operated by the Estate of A.M. Fusco, Sr.



PAMELA J. HUNTER
Assemblywoman 128th District
Onondaga County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Subcommittee on Women Veterans
COMMITTEES
Energy
Insurance
Social Services
Transportation
Veterans' Affairs

March 16, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's National Heritage Area Designation Committee
ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

I am writing in support of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's (FLTA) proposal to designate the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area. The region of designation would include the 14 counties defined by NYS Law (#1991, Chapter 16 approved 4/27/67). This area should remain intact throughout the designation process.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is a vital coordinating entity in the region. It is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants, overseeing regranteeing when applicable and developing organizations to protect the resources of the area, such as the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLOWPA) with its mission to protect the waters of the lakes.

The FLTA is an authority on everything relating to the Finger Lakes region. They know the immense beauty and wonder of the area and act as the nexus of public and private support for the region. This organization would be ideal for acting as the coordinating entity in establishing the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area.

If there is any additional information or support I can provide in relation to designating the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Pamela J. Hunter
Assemblywoman Pamela J. Hunter
128th Assembly District

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 553 Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5383, Fax: 518-455-5417
DISTRICT OFFICE: 711 East Genesee Street, 2nd Floor, Syracuse, New York 13210 • 315-449-9536, Fax: 315-449-0712
EMAIL: hunterp@nyassembly.gov
WEBSITE: nyassembly.gov/mem/Pamela-J-Hunter/



JOSH JENSEN
 Assemblyman
 134th District

THE ASSEMBLY
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY
 MEMBER
 Urban and Education Technology

COMMITTEES
 Corporations, Authorities and
 Commissions
 Health
 Housing

April 26, 2021

Ms. Cynthia Kimble
 President
 Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
 309 Lake Street
 Penn Yan, NY 14527

RE: Designation of Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area

Dear Ms. Kimble:

I am writing in support of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance’s ongoing efforts to secure a National Heritage Area designation.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) formed in 1919 and is considered the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation. The FLTA promotes tourism throughout a 14-county region that includes the following counties; Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates. With a \$3.2 billion tourism industry, inclusive of the wineries, the FLTA is a key component in marketing the region domestically and internationally.

In addition, the FLTA is instrumental in protecting our natural resources through the solicitation and administration of grants that safeguard the waters and ecosystem across the Finger Lakes region. I fully support the efforts of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance and I respectfully request that the FLTA’s designation as a National Heritage Area be given the highest consideration and that a favorable decision is reached.

Respectfully submitted,

Assemblyman Josh Jensen
 134th District

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 722, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4664
 DISTRICT OFFICE: 2496 West Ridge Road, Rochester, NY 14626 • 585-225-4190
 EMAIL: jensenj@nvassembly.gov

JOHN KATKO
24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2457 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3701

440 SOUTH WARREN STREET
7TH FLOOR, SUITE 711
SYRACUSE, NY 13202
(315) 423-5657

<http://katko.house.gov>



HOUSE TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CYBERSECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION AND INNOVATION
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 10, 2021

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80228

RE: Letter of Support – Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance for consideration to be the coordinating entity for the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

As outlined in its application, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has worked since 2014 with local stakeholders and elected officials in submitting the original request to the National Parks Service for consideration as a National Heritage Area. Designation as a National Heritage Area will encourage tourism to our region. The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance supports inclusion of all fourteen counties in the National Heritage Area designation. As established by New York State Law (#1991, Chapter 16) the Finger Lakes Tourism region is comprised of fourteen counties: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates counties.

I commend the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance for its efforts to promote the Finger Lakes region. I am pleased to offer my strong support for the application submitted by the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance and ask that you give it your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Katko".

John Katko
Member of Congress (NY-24)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



DR ANNA R. KELLES
 Assemblymember 125th District
 Tompkins & Cortland Counties

THE ASSEMBLY
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 ALBANY

CHAIR
 Subcommittee on Agricultural
 Production & Technology

COMMITTEES
 Agriculture
 Correction
 Economic Development, Job Creation
 Commerce and Industry
 Environmental Conservation
 Local Governments

TASK FORCES
 Task Force on Women's Issues
 Legislative Women's Caucus

May 14, 2021

Ms. Colleen Fabrizi
 NHA Committee Chair
 FLTA
 309 Lake Street
 Penn Yan, NY 14527

RE: Designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

I am writing to express my strong support for the efforts of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) to obtain a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Finger Lakes region of New York.

I represent the 125th district in the New York Assembly, which includes Tompkins County, one of the 14 counties making up the Finger Lakes region. Like many of my constituents, I am a proud steward of our lakes and watershed and celebrate the natural beauty of our local habitat.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has the distinction of being the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants, overseeing regranting when applicable, and bringing together public/private support. In this way, FLTA is well positioned to move forward with the NHA and continue to lead the effort as the coordinating entity.

I urge you to give full consideration to this application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations. If I may be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office via email at kellesa@nyassembly.gov or by phone at 607-277-8030.

In good health,

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.
 Member of Assembly
 125th District

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 833, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 518-455-5444, FAX: 518-455-4640
 ITHACA DISTRICT OFFICE: 106 East Court Street, Ithaca, New York 14850 607-277-8030, FAX: 607-277-8033
 CORTLAND DISTRICT OFFICE: 83 Main Street, Cortland, New York 13045 607-277-8030, FAX: 607-277-8033
 EMAIL: kellesa@nyassembly.gov



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Livingston County Government Center
6 Court Street, Room 305
Geneseo, New York 14454-1043

Telephone: (585) 243-7550

Fax: (585) 243-7566

www.livingstoncounty.us/planningboard.htm

May 20, 2021

Charles Lawson
U.S. National Parks Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Lawson:

Thank you for your presentation given on April 8, 2021, to the Livingston County Planning Board regarding the ongoing feasibility study to designate the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

Livingston County is wholly within and proudly joins as neighbors to adjoining counties and municipalities that make up the Finger Lakes Region. The Livingston County Planning Board would like to express its full support for the National Parks Services efforts to designate the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area. The Livingston County Planning Board recognizes that the Finger Lakes Region is a place that encompasses significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. These resources, shaped over time from patterns of human activity and natural geography, have a substantial story to share and would positively add to the national narrative.

The Livingston County Planning Board also recognizes that a designation as National Heritage Area would further benefit the local and regional economies within the Finger Lakes Region, and may lead to the enhanced protection of significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources.

Upon completion of the study, and with Congressional approval, the Livingston County Planning Board would look forward to the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander W. Pierce".

Alexander W. Pierce
Chairman, Livingston County Planning Board

cc: Angela Ellis, Deputy County Administrator
Don Kane, Vice Chairman, Livingston County Planning Board



JOHN LEMONDES
 Assemblyman
 126th District

THE ASSEMBLY
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
 Corporations, Authorities
 and Commission

COMMITTEES
 Banks
 Corporations, Authorities
 and Commission
 Economic Development, Job Creation
 Commerce and Industry
 Environmental Conservation

April 1, 2021

Coleen Fabrizi, Chair
 National Heritage Area Committee
 Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
 309 Lake Street
 Penn Yan, New York 14527

Dear Chairwoman Fabrizi:


I write to you today to enthusiastically offer my support for your work thus far towards the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area. This will have significant economic impact as well as the enhancement and preservation of our historical, natural and cultural assets.

As the New York State Assemblyman representing three of the fourteen counties, I fully support the designation and would also support the National Historic Area being inclusive of the fourteen counties of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tomkins, Wayne and Yates. These fourteen counties have been deemed the Finger Lakes region by New York State law and as a New York State legislator, I would support keeping the service area consistent with the 1967 law that was passed at the State level.

The work this committee and the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) have undertaken to move this forward is truly recognized. Your historical effectiveness for more than 100 years as well as your ability to represent the entire region, makes the FLTA a perfect selection for the coordinating entity to continue to lead this effort.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Assemblyman John Lemondes
 Member of Assembly

JL:dah

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 720, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5878, FAX: 518-455-3895
 DISTRICT OFFICE: 69 South Street, Auburn, New York 13021 • 315-255-3045, FAX: 315-255-3048
 EMAIL: lemondese@nyassembly.gov



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Livingston County Government Center
6 Court Street, Room 305
Geneseo, New York 14454-1043

Telephone: (585) 243-7550

Fax: (585) 243-7566

www.livingstoncounty.us/planningboard.htm

May 28, 2021

Charles Lawson
U.S. National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Lawson:

The Conesus Lake Watershed Council was pleased to learn about the ongoing feasibility study to designate the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

Livingston County is wholly within and proudly joins as neighbors to adjoining counties and municipalities that make up the Finger Lakes Region. The Conesus Lake Watershed Council would like to express its full support of the National Park Service's efforts to designate the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area. The Conesus Lake Watershed Council recognizes that the Finger Lakes Region is a place that encompasses significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources. These resources, shaped over time from patterns of human activity and natural geography, have a substantial story to share and would positively add to the national narrative.

The Conesus Lake Watershed Council also recognizes that a designation as a National Heritage Area would further benefit the local and regional economies within the Finger Lakes Region, and may lead to the enhanced protection of significant natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources.

Upon completion of the study, and with Congressional approval, the Conesus Lake Watershed Council would look forward to the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gott", written over a horizontal line.

Eric Gott
Chairman, Conesus Lake Watershed Council

cc: Ian Coyle, County Administrator
Angela Ellis, Deputy County Administrator
Donald Wester, Vice Chairman, Conesus Lake Watershed Council



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Children and Families
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Environmental Conservation
Libraries and Education Technology
Local Governments

JENNIFER A. LUNSFORD
Assemblywoman 135th District

DISTRICT OFFICE
268 Fairport Village Landing
Fairport, New York 14450
585-223-9130
FAX: 585-223-5243

May 14, 2021

Elizabeth Vehmeyer
Acting National Coordinator for Heritage Areas
National Heritage Areas Program Office
National Parks Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Peter Samuel
NHA Program Manager, Region I
National Heritage Areas Program Office
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Ms. Vehmeyer and Mr. Samuel,

I am proud to support the designation of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, which would include therein Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties. I also support the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the coordinating entity; the FLTA is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation that has the unique nexus of bringing together the public and private support needed for the Finger Lakes NHA to thrive.

The creation of the unique and beautiful landscape of the Finger Lakes began hundreds of millions of years ago as the Finger Lakes themselves were carved out by glaciers. Indeed, exploring the Finger Lakes region provides a unique display of hundreds of millions of years of geologic change. It is a visual stunning and compelling iteration of our planet's evolution.

In addition to its beautiful lakes, the Finger Lakes also includes gorgeous glens, including Watkins Glen State Park, which is widely considered one of the most beautiful places in North America.

The unique geography of the Finger Lakes region has led to a unique ecosystem and climate. Notably, these have combined to create the perfect environment for growing grapes for winemaking. Though not introduced to New York State, the Riesling grape has become the signature grape of the Finger Lakes region, and the resulting Riesling wines are consistently rated among the best in the world. The region has seen a dramatic increase in tourism by wine lovers. I highly recommend visiting in the summer as there really are no more pleasant summers than those spent in the region.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Jen Lunsford (D-135)



WILLIAM B. MAGNARELLI
Assemblyman 129th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Transportation

COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Education
Rules
Oversight, Analysis and Investigation
Steering
Ways and Means

May 20, 2021

Ms. Colleen Fabrizi
National Heritage Area Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi:

I am writing in support of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance’s (“FLTA”) application to receive a National Heritage Area (“NHA”) designation for the Finger Lakes region from the United States Congress and the National Park Service. This designation will benefit not only tourism in the Finger Lakes, but also New York State as a whole.

Onondaga County is part of the 14 county Finger Lakes tourism region that includes Skaneateles Lake. This designation will better enable the region to attract future visitors and help the FLTA apply for funding to fund future tourism and recreation projects. The Finger Lakes’ natural beauty, rich history and vibrant agriculture make it one of the nation’s crown jewel regions.

The FTLA is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the United States. It has extensive experience preparing and administering grants. It is also committed to preserving our natural resources and has worked extensively with the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (“FOLLOWPA”) to protect the waters and natural resources of the Finger Lakes.

Again, I fully support FTLA’s application to designate the Finger Lakes an NHA. I respectfully request that you give its application a full and fair consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,

William B. Magnarelli
Member, NYS Assembly
129th District

WBM/cms



BRIAN D. MANKTELOW
Assemblyman, 130th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES:
Banks
Environmental Conservation
Local Governments
Small Business
Veterans' Affairs

April 6, 2021

Coleen Fabrizi
National Heritage Committee Chair
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

I write to you today to express my strong support of The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's effort to secure a National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes. For the last 7 years your organization has been stewarding the endeavor to ensure that the 14 counties designated by New York State Law as the *Finger Lakes Region* will continue to operate in the best interest of the land and the people who reside on it.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has been the premier organization for growing and promoting tourism in the Finger Lakes Region. Also, through their staunch advocacy have protected our greatest assets, the land and water. As a region defined by water it come as no surprise that the tourism industry accounts for a major part of our economy.

Over the last 102 years the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has grown into a three-billion dollar industry, that supports hundreds of museums, art galleries, wineries and breweries, all of which draw countless tourist to our region, who stay in our hotels and eat at our restaurants. There is no doubt as the oldest regional destination marketing organization the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance has showed their unwavering commitment to community-led conservation and development.

By designating to the Finger Lakes region a National Heritage Area, we will be able to better promote a health environment and healthy people, our outdoor adventures and excitement, while preserving places for people to learn about the history and heritage of our region and in so we will be education our future leaders. The 14 counties that New York State designated at *The Finger Lakes* are some of the most historically rich, and culturally diverse in the State as well as the Country.

For thousands of generations the Finger Lakes region was home to the Haudenosaunee people, a coalition of Native Americans tribes. Today we celebrate these people and their heritage at the Ganondagan historic site, which hosts their annual Native American Dance and Music Festival, and hosts schools and tourists alike to promote and share the story of these peoples. Our region is host to 2,000 miles of hiking and biking trails, which include the Montezuma Heritage Park, and Letchworth State Park as well as more than 20 other state parks. Many of these trails connect to the thousand mile long Finger Lakes trail, which stretches from Niagara Falls, to the Alleghany State Park, through the Southern Tier



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Banks
Environmental Conservation
Local Governments
Small Business
Veterans' Affairs

BRIAN D. MANKTELOW
Assemblyman 130th District

and makes its way to the Catskills, providing hours or days of outdoor activities. In our community we have the City of Rochester, the third largest city in New York, within an hours drive of rural farms, state parks and Bristol Mountain Ski Resort, which has led to a handful of professional athletes, and is home to the summer Ariel Adventure park.

The Finger Lakes region is home to diversity and heritage. We have some of the richest communities in our State right down the road from some of the poorest. We have urban, suburban, and rural communities all within a short drive from one another. I am proud to represent 3 of the 14 counties that make up the Finger Lakes, and I give my full support of this endeavor. We deserve to be a National Heritage Area, because our culture and the cultures of our communities represents the vast diversity of our nation. If I can provide any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Brian Manktelow
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE
814 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12245
PHONE: 518.475.1111

E-MAIL
MANNION@STATE.NY.GOV

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR JOHN W. MANNION
50TH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
STATE OFFICE BUILDING - ROOM 300
155 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13202
PHONE: 315.438.5671
FAX: 315.475.4177

March 31st, 2021

Coleen Fabrizi
NHA Committee Chair
FLTA
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Committee Chair Fabrizi:

I write in support of designating the Finger Lakes region, and all of the fourteen counties encompassed within the region, as a National Heritage Area (NHA). Following 2019 federal legislation, it is our understanding that a feasibility study is well underway. I hoped to offer my own support, as well as some personal context and history as it relates to the region.

Growing up in Central New York, I've had the great fortune of enjoying the Finger Lakes and I can attest to its natural beauty and all of the sweeping landscapes, activities, and civic comradery that the region has to offer. The Finger Lakes are not something that ought to be taken for granted; there are few places that experience all four seasons and yet have so much to offer, regardless of the weather.

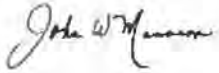
The Finger Lakes region is home to such a great deal of significant history, having been called home at different points to historic and important figures such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and William Seward, who lived in Auburn. Seneca Falls was home to the Women's Suffrage Movement, and leaders of profound historical significance such as Susan B. Anthony.

In designating the region a National Heritage Area, I believe we will be able to utilize such a designation in future efforts to ensure further economic growth, tourism, and accessibility to the region for folks from all walks of life, so as to make certain that the Finger Lakes and all of its beauty and history remain something that is truly all of ours to enjoy.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) has led the way in this effort; the alliance has proven its capacity to act as a coordinating entity, which adds yet another reason as to why this region ought to be considered worthy of this designation. The FLTA is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants and developing organizations to protect critical assets to the region. The FLTA has brought together public and private support, ensuring a bright future for this already beautiful region.

I believe the Finger Lakes region is absolutely worthy of designation as a National Heritage Area. I truly appreciate your consideration.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Mannion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Senator John W. Mannion
50thDistrict of New York

Chair
Aging
Legislative Commission on Rural
Resources
Committees
Agriculture
Banks
Cities 2
Elections
Environmental Conservation
Health

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



RACHEL MAY
SENATOR, 53RD DISTRICT

Albany Office
Legislative Office Building
Room 803
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2838

District Office
State Office Building
Room 405
333 East Washington St.
Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 478-8745
may@nysenate.gov

May 14, 2021

Ms. Coleen Fabrizi
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, NHA Committee Chair
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527

Re: Designation of the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area

Dear Ms. Kimble:

I write today to express my sincere support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) and its efforts to gain a National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes region.

As the chair of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources for the New York State Senate, I work to address the needs, interests and concerns of our state's rural communities. The Finger Lakes area is home to some of New York's most celebrated wineries and most breathtaking landscapes. Designation as a National Heritage Area will help enhance the small business, which are the economic drivers of the area, by attracting countless visitors. It will protect the region's natural resources and ensure that generations of New Yorkers and those from other locations can enjoy its rich beauty. Additionally, such designation would increase access to various funding sources to ensure the area continues to thrive for the benefit of residents, the entire Finger Lakes region, and New York State.

We commend the FLTA for their leadership and dedication in this effort and fully lend our support for the Finger Lakes region to be designated a National Heritage Area. Should you have any questions or would like to speak to me directly, please feel free to reach out to our office by phone at 315-478-8745.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel May".

Rachel May
Senator, District 53
New York State Senate
RM:tp



DEMOND L. MEEKS
 Assemblyman 137th District
 Monroe County

THE ASSEMBLY
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 ALBANY

COMMITTEES
 Children & Families
 Cities
 Governmental Operations
 Housing
 Insurance

May 24, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance’s National Heritage Area Designation Committee
 ATTN: Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Designation Committee Chair
 309 Lake Street
 Penn Yan, NY 14527

Re: National Heritage Area Designation for the Finger Lakes

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Designation of the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area. The region’s 9000 square-mile landscape has greatly influenced the development of New York State and its diverse communities. Its geography, its culture, and its people are home to stories that deserve to be recognized nationally.

The Finger Lakes National Heritage Area should consist of the counties of the fourteen-county region of Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates. These counties have worked together diligently for decades to support the economic development and cultural growth of the Finger Lakes region and its residents. I believe this association will continue to support the economic growth and cultural significance of the Finger Lakes region.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is also in a strong position to provide the funding, management, and imagination necessary to maintain an NHA should it be granted. Founded in 1919, the FTLA is one of the oldest marketing organizations in the United States. The association has worked diligently and collectively since its inception to promote attractions and visitation throughout the locality. Supported by several funding and granting institutions, the FTLA is uniquely situated to bear the responsibility of national recognition.

As the Assemblymember representing the 137th District, I have learned a great deal from the storied history that connects each of our counties and the people of our cities. I am hopeful that the Finger Lakes will be designated as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Demond L. Meeks

Joseph D. Morelle
25th District, New York

Washington Office
1317 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3615

Rochester Office
3120 Federal Building
100 State Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 232-4850



Committee on Rules
Committee on Budget
Committee on Education and Labor
Committee on Armed Services

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
Attn: Coleen Fabrizi, National Heritage Area Committee Chair
309 Lakes Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Fabrizi,

Re: Letter of Support for a National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes Region

I am pleased to write in of support the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area (NHA) designation and the inclusion of all fourteen counties including Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates counties in the National Heritage Area.

The Finger Lakes regions represents a culturally and historically significant area in our nation. This unique and diverse section of Upstate New York encompasses a patchwork of cultures as well as spectacular natural, scenic, and recreational resources. To designate this region as an NHA will facilitate economic growth and allow the collective stories of its assets to be told.

Since 1919, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) has been earnestly administering grants, securing state and federal funding, protecting the assets of the Finger Lakes, working jointly with private and public sectors, and defining the Finger Lakes as an important region. As the oldest regional marketing organization in the nation the FLTA has demonstrated time and time again that they are qualified to lead this project. To that end, I support the FLTA maintaining their current and future leadership role in administering the National Heritage Area.

This is an important opportunity to showcase New York's eleven 19,000 year old Finger Lakes and the beautiful land and people that surround them. I urge all concerned to give full and fair consideration to this request as a matter of community development. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph D. Morelle".

Joseph Morelle
Member of Congress



CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

May 26, 2021

National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Attn: Finger Lakes NHA / Charles Lawson
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80228

Re: Finger Lakes National Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Lawson,

The Board of Directors of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association (CLWA) is writing to express its enthusiastic support for the designation of the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York as a National Heritage Area. We believe the Finger Lakes are of special significance to New York State, providing natural, historic, and cultural resources that deserve to be preserved.

CLWA is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring the entire Canandaigua Lake watershed community to become stewards of the lake through education, scientific research, and advocating sound public policy. Canandaigua Lake is the third largest of the Finger Lakes with a watershed of over 100,000 acres that includes forested lands, agriculture operations, business enterprises, and residential properties. As strong advocates for healthy land use and access to clean water, CLWA works closely with a wide array of nonprofit, municipal and agency partners across the entire region to help conserve our Finger Lakes, not only for their recreational and aesthetic values, but also for protection of the source of drinking water for more than 1.5 million citizens.

Beyond the many important environmental resources of our region, the Finger Lakes region is home to incredibly rich historical, cultural and natural assets that define our regional identity. Canandaigua derives its name from the origin story of the Seneca Nation. The Seneca, the "Keepers of the Western Door," was the largest of the six tribes of Native Americans that comprised the Iroquois Confederation. According to Seneca legend, its founders originated from a gorge at the base of "Kanandague," which is translated as "the chosen spot." Canandaigua is the chosen spot for thousands of residents and visitors, who each year recreate on the lake, enjoy the scenic beauty of its many walking trails, visit its thriving breweries and wineries, and learn its rich history from its many historical and cultural landmarks.

The key to maintaining and growing this thriving economy is conservation of the lake and its watershed. The lake is the touchstone that draws people to the region to visit, to establish businesses, and to live. The members of CLWA believe that the designation of the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area will provide enhanced support for our efforts to preserve, protect and restore the lake and its watershed for current and future generations. For this reason, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association is very pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for this important and exciting initiative, and supports the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in their current and future leadership role in administering said National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Atkins".

Neil Atkins, President
Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association

PO Box 323 Canandaigua, NY 14424 | 585.394.5030 | info@canandaigualakeassoc.org | canandaigualakeassoc.org



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

FRED BONN
Regional Director, Finger Lakes

March 30, 2021

Mr. Charles Lawson
Project Coordinator, Finger Lakes NHA
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Lawson,

I am writing to support the creation of a National Heritage Area for the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. As the Regional Director for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, I am intimately familiar with the historic, cultural, natural, and recreational assets of this area of New York State. As the former Director of the Ithaca and Tompkins County Convention and Visitors Bureau I also understand the importance of travel and tourism to the local economies in the Finger Lakes. As a lifelong resident of the region I continue, to this day, to be awestruck by the landscape, inspired by the human history, and am constantly amazed by the warmth and generosity of the region's residents.

The Finger Lakes Region of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees 30 facilities that are almost in direct alignment with the 14 county Finger Lakes Tourism Region. Our staff welcomed over 4.3 million visitors for each of the last two years and projections for 2021 are off the charts.

World renowned parks such as Watkins Glen, Taughannock Falls and historic sites such as Ganondagan, Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion and Newtown Battlefield find themselves balanced against hidden gems like Lodi Point State Park and Harriet Hollister Spencer and showcase the regions beauty, history and culture. Parks and Historic Sites are deeply woven into the fabric of this region. Residents have a deep sense of ownership and pride about them and travelers and tourists from around the country, and the globe, leave with a changed perspective and a deeper understanding and knowledge about this part of New York having visited these places.

I also have the benefit of understanding the importance of a National Heritage Areas in my current role as a Commissioner on the Erie Canal National Heritage Commission representing the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In my service on this commission I have seen how a National Heritage Area can lift communities by forging strong public/private partnerships. The events, promotional campaigns and grant programs managed by ECNHA celebrate the rich history and

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Finger Lakes Region, 2221 Taughannock Park Road, Trumansburg, NY 14886 • (607) 387-7041 • parks.ny.gov

expansive recreational opportunities that the Erie Canal offers. We reserve a very special place in our kitchen each year for the ECNHA calendar!

Lastly, I whole heartily endorse the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as the administrator of the Finger Lake National Heritage Area. This organization, now in its' second century, has the demonstrated ability to forge the public/private partnerships that are essential to the launch and growth of a Heritage Area. Their work, promoting and representing the interests of businesses and organizations in the 14-county region has been instrumental in the region's growth. The organization's ability to form strong and lasting partnerships with small businesses and the non-profit sector and work with state and local governments is well proven. FLTA's success in providing timely information to travelers, in a way that motivates them to come to our area, is supported by data and their use of research to fine tune these efforts is never ending. There simply is no better organization to manage the creation, launch and success of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area than the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance.

I would very much welcome an opportunity to speak with anyone at the National Park Service about the Finger Lakes and my opinion of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance. Finally, I would offer to make available any of the staff in the Finger Lakes State Park system in support of your research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Bonn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "B".

Fred Bonn
Regional Director
New York State Office of Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Finger Lakes Region

ALBANY OFFICE
506 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-3131

E-MAIL
OBERACKER@NYSenate.GOV

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



PETER OBERACKER
SENATOR, 51ST DISTRICT

May 21, 2021

DISTRICT OFFICE
41 S. MAIN STREET
ONEONTA, NEW YORK 13820
(607) 432-5524

Ms. Cynthia Kimble, President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

RE: Designation of the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area

Dear Ms. Kimble,

I am writing in support of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) and their efforts on obtaining a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Finger Lakes region.

The Finger Lakes region includes 14 counties in New York. I am honored to represent the 51 Senate District and the Finger Lake region. The Finger Lakes are a treasure for locals and tourists alike who come every year to these areas, which brings jobs and needed dollars to help these communities flourish. The Finger Lakes region is one of natural beauty that all need to see and enjoy.

The Finger Lake Tourism Alliance is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation. They have experience with grants and administering them or overseeing re-granting. They are committed to protecting our natural resources in the Finger Lakes.

For all these many reasons, I am asking you to give full consideration with this application in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

If I may provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office via email: oberacker@nysenate.gov or by phone; 607-432-5524.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Oberacker".

PETER OBERACKER
State Senator

PO:rw

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
FINANCE
INVESTIGATIONS AND GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES
RULES
CODES
JUDICIARY
INSURANCE
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



THOMAS F. O'MARA
SENATOR
58TH DISTRICT

ROOM 711B LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2091
FAX: (518) 426-6976
133 E. WATER STREET, SUITE 301
ELMIRA, NEW YORK 14901
(607) 735-9671
FAX: (607) 735-9675
E-MAIL: omara@nysenate.gov

April 1, 2021

Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Committee Chair
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527

RE: National Heritage Area Designation

Dear Coleen:

I write to express my strong support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's work to secure a National Heritage Area designation for the 14 counties designated by New York State law as the Finger Lakes region.

This designation will recognize the region's nationally distinctive landscape, telling the stories that helped shape our nation, state, and region. The historical, cultural, and natural assets will be shared on a national level.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, as the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants and its ability to connect public and private support for the organizations and businesses in the region, is the ideal coordinating entity for this effort.

As the New York State Senator for the 58th Senate District, I know this designation will further enhance regional economic growth in an important sector of our economy. Should you have any questions, I invite you to contact my office directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom F. O'Mara".

Thomas F. O'Mara
NYS Senator, 58th District

6



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Energy Committee

COMMITTEES
Corporations, Authorities and Commissions
Correction
Insurance
Ways and Means

PHILIP A. PALMESANO
Assemblyman 132nd District

May 4, 2021

Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca,
Steuben, and Yates Counties

Legislative Commission on Rural Resources

Coleen Fabrizi, NHA Committee Chair
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527

RE: National Heritage Area Designation

Dear Committee Chair Fabrizi:

We are taking the opportunity to contact you to express our strong support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) as the lead coordinating entity working to secure a National Heritage Area designation for the 14 counties designated by New York State law as the Finger Lakes Region.

Since being founded in 1919 by a group of people with the intent to promote tourism in the "area", The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, has grown to be the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation serving 14 counties comprising the Finger lakes Region with more than 400 registered historic sites and landmarks, 135 museums, 80 art galleries, 14 professional theatre companies, 100 wineries, 300 bed and breakfasts, 1063 waterfalls and gorges, 26 state parks, 2000 miles of walking/hiking trails and 650 miles of shore line.

The FLTA's burgeoning ability to connect public and private support for the organizations and businesses in the region is what is needed to lead the effort for the designation of the National Heritage Area. This designation will recognize the region's nationally distinctive landscape that makes up our region, state, and nation. The historical, cultural, and natural assets that are appreciated by the residents of New York will be shared by the all the visitors from across this country who seek the historical, cultural, and recreational resources of the area.

We appreciate the opportunity to contact you and wish to reiterate our strong support for and are extremely hopeful that favor able consideration will be given to the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance's as the lead coordinating entity working to secure a National Heritage Area designation for the 14 counties designated by New York State law as the Finger Lakes region.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Palmesano
Member of Assembly

Marjorie L. Byrnes
Member of Assembly

DISTRICT OFFICE: 105 East Steuben Street, Bath, New York 14810 – 607-776-9691, FAX: 607-776-5185
ALBANY OFFICE: Room 448 Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 – 518-455-5791, FAX: 518-455-4644
Email: palmesanop@nyassembly.gov

ALBANY OFFICE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 513
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-3161
(518) 426-6963 FAX

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



DISTRICT OFFICE
1961 WEHRLE DRIVE, STE. 9
WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221
(716) 631-8695
(716) 634-4321 FAX
E-MAIL: RATH@NYSENATE.GOV

May 6, 2021

EDWARD A. RATH III
SENATOR, 61ST DISTRICT

Ms. Cynthia Kimble
President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Kimble,

It is my understanding that Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance (FLTA) is working to secure a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Finger Lakes. I strongly support these efforts.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is an organization that has the unique nexus of bringing together public and private support, which is very important moving forward with a National Heritage Area. Their efforts have been ongoing since 2014, and FLTA is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants and protecting the waters of the Finger Lakes.

The Finger Lakes region is an incredible area of natural beauty and represents 14 counties in New York State. As the Senator representing the 61st Senate District, I am pleased to support the National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes. If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ed Rath III'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a stylized 'E' and 'R'.

EDWARD A. RATH III
NYS Senator – 61st District

EAR/kmd

TOM REED
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, REPUBLICAN LEADER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKER FAMILY SUPPORT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
2263 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3223
PHONE: (202) 225-3161

www.Reed.House.gov

PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
MANUFACTURING CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
DIABETES CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

March 8, 2021

Cynthia Kimble, President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

RE: Support for National Heritage Area designation for the Finger Lakes Region

Dear Ms. Kimble,

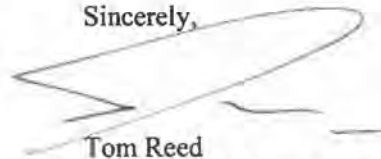
I am pleased to provide this letter of support to the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance in support of designating the Finger Lakes Region as a National Heritage Area.

The Finger Lakes region is designated by NYS Law as including 14 counties spanning the middle of New York State, and represent a culturally and historically important area in our nation.

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance is the oldest regional destination marketing organization in the nation with a rich history of administering grants, protecting our assets, and defining the Finger Lakes as an important region. As such I support FLTA as the coordinating entity of this proposal to designate the Finger Lakes as a National Heritage Area.

I urge all concerned to give full and fair consideration to this request as a matter of community development. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress, NY-23

TR: tw

CORNING DISTRICT OFFICE
89 WEST MARKET STREET
CORNING, NY 14830
PHONE: (607) 664-7566

GENEVA DISTRICT OFFICE
433 EXCHANGE STREET
GENEVA, NY 14456
PHONE: (315) 759-5229

JAMESTOWN DISTRICT OFFICE
2 EAST 2ND STREET, SUITE 208
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701
PHONE: (716) 708-6369

OLEAN DISTRICT OFFICE
1 BLUEBIRD SQUARE
OLEAN, NY 14760
PHONE: (716) 379-8434



May 17, 2021

National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Attn: Finger Lakes NHA / Charles Lawson
12795 West Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Lawson:

On behalf of Cayuga Health, I am writing in support of the National Heritage Area feasibility study on the Finger Lakes region.

Our affiliate hospitals, Schuyler Hospital and Cayuga Medical Center, in Schuyler and Tompkins Counties, both benefit from the Finger Lakes landscapes of waterfalls and Finger Lakes views. The area is one of the most picturesque scenic landscapes in the United States with unmatched lakes, forests, and communities that date back to pre-revolutionary times.

Schuyler County is named in honor of an American Revolutionary War General, Philip John Schuyler. General Schuyler was also a US Senator and a member of the 1775 Continental Congress. Schuyler County is famous as the current and original home of the Watkins Glen International Raceway, welcoming auto racing's best from around the world since 1948.

Tompkins County was named in honor of Daniel D. Tompkins, who served as Governor of New York and Vice President of the United States. The county is home to Ivy League Cornell University, and Ithaca College, as was the home to silent movie productions in the early 20th century. With plenty of year-round outdoor activities, we are proud to say "Ithaca is Gorges."

Our counties' histories also include travel from horse and buggy, to barge canals connecting with the Erie Canal, to railroads and cars. We have a number of historical landmarks, including stops on the Underground Railroad, unique architecture dating back over 150 years, many of which are on the NYS Historic Register, plus a rich Native American heritage.

Both counties benefit from a national forest and a variety of other hiking, biking and outdoor recreation opportunities; numerous state parks showing off our amazing gorges and waterfalls (including Taughannock Falls State Park which boasts a New York waterfall with a higher vertical drop than Niagara Falls); the spectacular views and water sport opportunities of Tompkins and Seneca Lakes, and their unique micro-climate ideal for wineries; plus a growing number of breweries and distilleries; and picturesque, historic towns and villages.

220 Steuben Street • Montour Falls, NY 14865 • (607) 535-7121 • www.schuylerhospital.org

A Member of Cayuga Health System

more “spirited.” Festivals feature our heritage, our nature-blessed area and agriculture – including the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival, Chowder & Chili Cook-Off, Wine and Cheese, Apple Festival, Ithaca Fest, and the Italian-American Festival, among many others.

We welcome guests with unique Bed & Breakfasts and Air BnB’s, alongside more traditional lodging options. Try out Finger Lakes fare with the fresh tastes of our farmers’ markets and local restaurants, take a walk through our museums and galleries, and enjoy live music and theater.

Our area is a great place to visit, work, live, and raise a family. It is also an easy commute to larger metropolitan areas.

The Finger Lakes region is an ideal candidate for a National Heritage Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Gould
President



Local Historians and Representatives of Museums & Historical Societies in Seneca County, NY
c/o Seneca County Historian Walter Gable
County Historian's Office
1 Di Pronio Drive
Waterloo, NY 13165

May 11, 2021

National Park Service, Denver Service Center
 Attn: Finger Lakes NHA/Charles Lawson
 12795 West Alameda Pkwy
 Denver, CO 80228

Dear Sir:

At our semi-annual meeting today, we decided to endorse strongly the idea of designating the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area.

As you can see in the map above, Seneca County is located in the heart of the Finger Lakes region. We are central to all that is the Finger Lakes region. Seneca County is, indeed, the "country between the lake," located between the two largest of the 11 Finger Lakes—namely Cayuga Lake and Seneca Lake. Seneca County has a distinctive history, thriving agricultural activity, and significant recreational opportunities.

We local historians help to promote awareness of the very significant historical developments that have taken place here in Seneca County. The most obvious of these events is the Seneca Falls Convention of July 19-20, 1848, which launched the woman's rights movement in the United States. The Declaration of Sentiments adopted at that gathering expresses women's grievances at that time. Many of those grievances are still issues today.

We list here other very significant historical events within Seneca County:

- 1779—The Sullivan Expedition destroyed several Seneca and Cayuga Indians villages and crops in what became Seneca County.
- 1800—"Bridgeport" in present-day Seneca County was the western terminus of the Cayuga Long Bridge which was the longest wooden bridge in the Western Hemisphere and served as an important link for the Genesee Road—the gateway to the "West."
- 1828—The canal on the Seneca River in present-day Seneca County was linked with the Erie Canal, enabling goods to be transported from the greater Seneca and Cayuga Lakes area to New York and/or Buffalo via the Erie Canal.
- 1830--The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith, Jr. at the Peter Whitmer Farm in the town of Fayette .
- 1835—John Johnston made the first use of farm field drainage tile in the United States in the town of Fayette.
- 1858—Frederick Furniss secured a patent for his Sleeping Car, a patent right he sold to George Pullman who made Furniss' invention into the famous Pullman Sleeper on trains.
- 1860—The first NYS agricultural college opened in the town of Ovid.
- 1865—With the completion of the new clerk's building in Ovid, there were the 3 county government buildings which became known as the "Three Bears"—the only set of 3 adjacent public buildings of Greek Revival architecture in the entire United States.
- 1866—A local event in Waterloo has been recognized by Congressional resolution and Presidential proclamation as making Waterloo the officially recognized birthplace of Memorial Day.
- 1869—The first NYS asylum for the chronically insane opened at Willard, with this facility later becoming the largest state mental institution in the entire United States.
- 1941—The Seneca Ordnance Depot (later renamed the Seneca Army Depot) was chosen as a munitions supply base for defense of the northeastern United States during World War II.

- 1942—The Sampson Naval Training Station was established and provided training during World War II for over 411,000 naval recruits
- 1950—The Sampson Air Force Base was established and provided training of over 300,000 air force recruits during the Korean conflict.

Many other items could be added to this list. We think that the above listing demonstrates the significant historical developments in Seneca County in the heart of the Finger Lakes.

In addition to this listing of historical events in Seneca County, we would mention three other more recent developments. First, in very recent years several wineries, as well as breweries, have been operating in Seneca County. Second, in 2017 the Casino Del Lago opened. Third, Seneca County has wonderful recreational opportunities, making use of the Cayuga and Seneca Lakes and 3 state parks—Seneca Lake State Park, Sampson State Park, and Cayuga Lake State Park—located in Seneca County.

The designation of the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area will undoubtedly enhance the promotion of tourists to enjoy the rich history of Seneca County, as well as its tremendous recreational opportunities. Designation as a National Heritage Area will also provide for greater regional collaboration and cooperation among historians, historical societies, and museums, allowing more funding opportunities for programs and inter- and intra-county projects.

The signatures below identify those present at our meeting today who support the designation of the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area.

Name

Position

<u>Walter Halle</u>	<u>Seneca County Historian</u>
<u>John K. Sullivan</u>	<u>Town of Cortland Historian</u>
<u>Rhonda Bestino</u>	<u>Town of Fayette Historical Society</u>
<u>Kathy Janney</u>	<u>Seneca Museum Executive Director</u>
<u>Jane C. Brauning</u>	<u>Town of Tyre Historian</u>
<u>Deborah Patis</u>	<u>Ovid Town Historian</u>
<u>Ned Orr</u>	<u>Town of Geneva Historian</u>
<u>R. Mark Brown</u>	<u>Visitor Services and Program Manager Rose Mansion</u>
<u>Walt Sene</u>	<u>Town of Lodi Historian</u>
	<u>TOWN OF ROMULUS HISTORIAN</u>



April 9, 2021

National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Attn: Finger Lakes NHA/Charles Lawson
12795 West Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80228

I am writing today to indicate the support of Finger Lakes region of NY being designated as a National heritage Area. Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park is a 54 acre property and the number one tourist site each summer in Ontario County and brings approximately 40,000 visitors into the Canandaigua Community. This Historic property with our world renowned nine Victorian gardens of the world and 20 acre arboretum and also has a Lord and Burnham Green Houses complex with collections of Orchids, Succulents and Tropical Garden and displays. The crown jewel of the site is our 40 rooms Tudor style Mansion on our Thompson estate.

As you are aware, tourism is a critical sector of the Finger Lakes regional economy. The pandemic has hit our tourism industry especially hard, and Ontario County, along with our partner agencies, are looking at creative ways that we can strengthen this sector through creative public initiatives. The designation National Heritage designation will open up new Federal, State and Local funding opportunities for our nonprofit organization which operates this site and develops this property in a cooperative agreement with NYS Parks. This designation would help keep the beauty of our Finger Lakes Region and Legends alive of our Founders and Mary Clark and Fredrick Ferris Thompson's stories of their lives. These two North East Philanthropists which founded our Canandaigua Community as well as were highly influential in founding two women's colleges Vassar in NY and Williams in MA. Mary Clark Thompson posthumously was also a recipient of the Corn Planter award from the Iroquois Nation and purchased the 6,000 acres of the Clark's Reservoir in Jamesville NY. All a part of this new Finger Lakes National Heritage designation.

If you require any additional information about this National Heritage designation and the positive impact it can have on our Canandaigua community, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David A. Hutchings". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Hutchings
Executive Director
Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion
151 Charlotte St.
Canandaigua, NY 14424

151 CHARLOTTE STREET • CANANDAIGUA, NY 14424 • (585) 394-4922 • FAX (585) 394-2192

www.sonnenberg.org

info@sonnenberg.org



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Assemblyman 127th District

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April 27, 2021

Cynthia Kimble
President
Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
309 Lake Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Ms. Kimble,

I am writing today to offer my strong support for designating the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area.

Anyone who has spent any time in the Finger Lakes region, which includes the 14 counties designated by NYS Law as such, understands the natural beauty and splendor of the entire area, not to mention its fascinating geological history. Former Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton once said that if the nation was discovered west to east, the Finger Lakes would be a national park like Yosemite.

The local community has been calling for this designation as a National Heritage Area for some time, with the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance coordinating the effort. Such a designation would not only recognize the unique history, culture, and geology of the region, but it would allow the local communities to better coordinate to decide how to preserve and promote the region's cultural significance.

I believe the time to designate the region as a National Heritage Area is long overdue. That's why I fully support the effort to earn this designation.

Sincerely,

Hon. Albert A. Stirpe
127th Assembly District

DISTRICT OFFICE: 7293 Buckley Road, Suite 201, N. Syracuse, New York 13212 • 315-452-1115, FAX 315-452-1119
ALBANY OFFICE: Room 622, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-4505, FAX 518-455-5523
EMAIL: stirpea@nyassembly.gov



Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association
P.O. Box 3587, Syracuse, NY 13220

National Parks Service;

This letter is sent on behalf of the Greater Syracuse Hospitality and Tourism Association Board of Directors to share our support for the Finger Lakes region being designated as a National Heritage Area. The Finger Lakes region of 14 counties is one of the most expansive and rich areas in the United States. It is a unique area full of natural beauty, history and culture. The National Heritage Area designation would highlight everything that the Finger Lakes has to offer to travelers from near and far.

We also strongly support the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance being the lead entity for the NHA. FLTA has spent countless hours on making the dream of a local NHA a reality. They have a proven track record for success on projects of this magnitude. Each of the 14 counties has a seat on the FLTA Board and a voice within the organization. Thank you for your time and efforts to help designate our region as a National Heritage area.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hares

Kyle Hares

General Manager, Crowne Plaza Syracuse

Vice President, Greater Syracuse Hospitality and Tourism Association

khares@cpsyracuse.com

315-703-1919



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3222

May 21, 2021

Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
Attn: Coleen Fabrizi, National Heritage Area Committee Chair
309 Lakes St
Penn Yan, NY 14527

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing today in support of the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance application for the Finger Lakes Region to be designated as an National Heritage Area through the National Parks Service.

The Finger Lakes Region covers 14 counties throughout Upstate New York, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler, Steuben, Seneca, Tompkins, Tioga, Wayne and Yates, with Cortland in the 22nd Congressional District. The Finger Lakes Region has always been a significant tourist draw for Upstate New York, and can grow even stronger as a tourism destination with support from the National Parks Service.

With such a heavy role to play in the tourism industry, it would be appropriate for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance to take a leadership role in the project. FLTA is more than prepared to take this project on and would help invigorate the region following a national designation.

For these reasons, I am in strong support of FLTA's application for the Finger Lakes Region. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for providing consideration to the region. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Utica District Office at 315-732-0713.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claudia Tenney

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

National Park Service, Denver Service Center

Attn: Finger Lakes NHA/Charles Lawson

12795 West Alameda Pkwy.

Denver, CO 80228

Attention: Charles Lawson

Letter of Support

This letter is in support of Tioga County's inclusion into the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area.

Being included is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the towns and villages of Tioga County; the Gateway to the Finger Lakes Region.

Grants for these National Heritage Areas are grass roots, community driven and allow communities like Town of Tioga access to grant monies to help with historic preservation, natural resources, recreation and tourism.

Town of Tioga is comprised of 35,805 acres including several hamlets; Tioga Center, Halsey Valley, Smithboro, Straits Corners, and Goodrich Settlement. David Pixley built the first grist mill on Owego Creek around 1793. Major William Ransom built three sawmills and two gristmills on Pipe Creek. Major Ransom also built the first log home in Tioga.

Today Town of Tioga remains a rural community with dairy farms and small businesses. It has a small town charm to escape the hustle of city life, providing an opportunity to step into history while enjoying beautiful scenery changing as the seasons change.

National Heritage Areas are not National Park units, so the National Park Service does not assume ownership of land inside National Heritage Areas and thereby not imposing land use controls. This is another positive aspect as it leaves the decisions to the community and its members who know the area best.

There are currently only 55 National Heritage Areas in the US. The proposed Finger Lakes National Heritage Area would be the fourth in New York State.

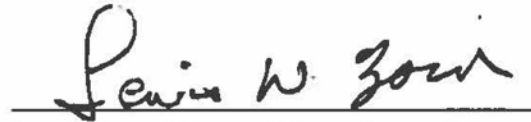
Besides the scenery and rich historic sites; Tioga County and its many villages and towns are well known and draws in tourists to its many festivals. A good share of the festivals are held by local historical societies; attracting crafters and artists many of whom are preserving long ago talents and past times while encouraging new ideas.

Learning from the past helps us move more successfully in to the future while enjoying each day. Being part of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area is a positive concept for Town

of Tioga; allowing its residents to preserve and protect their community while offering assistance when needed.

Sincerely,

Anne O. Stout, Town of Tioga Historian

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis W. Zorn". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lewis Zorn, Town of Tioga Supervisor

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We write to express our strong support for the designation of the Finger Lakes region of New York State as a National Heritage Area. As Members of Congress representing the Finger Lakes region, we welcome this opportunity to recognize our community's many natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Located between the cities of Syracuse, Rochester, Elmira, and Corning, the eleven Finger Lakes consist of Canadice, Canandaigua, Cayuga, Conesus, Hemlock, Honeoye, Keuka, Otisco, Owasco, Seneca and Skaneateles Lakes. Ranging from 40 miles in length and 618 feet in depth, the Finger Lakes are part of a massive and diverse watershed that also includes Lake Ontario. In the 14 counties that constitute the Finger Lakes region, these bodies of water are viewed as a treasured resource and a critical part of our local community.

The Finger Lakes are among the most scenic landscapes and cleanest waters in New York State, serving as an ideal destination for local families and tourists. The lakes themselves provide over 650 miles of shoreline and are the home of more than 128 species of fish. The surrounding region includes a national forest spanning more than 16,000 acres, as well as over 2,000 miles of trail for hiking. Notably, the Finger Lakes region is also the home of 1,063 waterfalls and gorges, including those located at Letchworth State Park, known across the country as the Grand Canyon of the East.

The picturesque and diverse natural resources of the Finger Lakes region serve as a strong cultural and economic foundation for the local community. In addition to the many recreational activities that our lakes, forests, and parks accommodate, the hundreds of local businesses, waterside restaurants, art galleries, and community theaters ensure that the Finger Lakes provide robust opportunities for both residents and visitors. Notably, the Finger Lakes region is also renowned as some of America's finest wine country, acting as the home for award-winning wines from over 100 local wineries, as well as a considerable community of local breweries, cideries, and distilleries.

The Finger Lakes region has also served as the proud site of many critical moments in American history. Of specific importance, the Finger Lakes has an important role in our nation's movement toward equality for all people, acting as the location of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, as well as the home of renowned abolitionist Harriet Tubman in the later years of her life. Additionally, the region contains more than 100 miles of the historic Erie Canal, over 400 registered historic sites and landmarks, and over 135 museums, including the Seward House Museum and the Corning Museum of Glass.

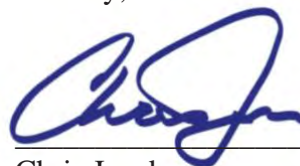
Designating the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area would be in keeping with the stated goals of the program to recognize cohesive and nationally important landscapes. For this reason, we would like to express our strong support for the favorable consideration of this designation by the National Park Service (NPS). Additionally, we request that NPS consider working closely with existing cultural and tourism organizations, as well as local communities from the region, as the designation process moves forward.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



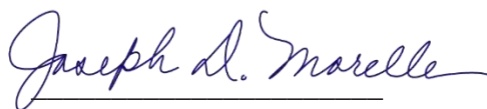
John Katko
Member of Congress



Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Joseph Morelle
Member of Congress

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Appendix E: Summary of Public Comments Received

FINGER LAKES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service (NPS) is [conducting a study](#) to determine the feasibility of designating the Finger Lakes region of New York as a national heritage area (NHA).

In March 2019, Congress passed the [John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#), under which the National Park Service, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, is directed to study the feasibility of designating the Finger Lakes region of New York as a national heritage area. The legislation identified the following counties to be considered as part of the study: Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates (figure 1). Additional areas that have heritage aspects or are within the vicinity of the counties listed may also be considered within the study boundary (figure 1).

A national heritage area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make national heritage areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of national heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance. The United States currently has 55 national heritage areas throughout the country. National heritage areas are a grassroots community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, national heritage area coordinating entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects.

National heritage areas further the mission of the National Park Service by fostering community stewardship of our nation's heritage. National heritage areas are not national park units. Rather, the National Park Service partners with, provides technical assistance to, and distributes federal funds appropriated by Congress to national heritage area management entities. The National Park Service does not assume ownership of land inside national heritage areas or impose land use controls. The funding that national heritage areas receive through agreements with the National Park Service is typically matched and supports heritage area operations along with an array of projects and programs.



Figure 1. Boundary of the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

The National Park Service follows [specific guidelines](#) during the development of a feasibility study. One critical aspect of a feasibility study is determining whether a study area has a story to tell that is rooted in its history and cultural traditions and is nationally important and unique to its part of the country. This story or stories can be brought to life through the lived-in landscapes and shared culture of the communities and residents who reside in the Finger Lakes. The study also seeks to document whether there is widespread public support for the designation of a national heritage area and whether an organization is poised to lead its management if created.

The NPS study team has begun gathering information about the history, culture, and resources associated with the counties identified in the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study legislation. Over the past year, team members with expertise in natural resources, cultural resources, community planning, visitor use, and socioeconomics completed research of primary documents, assessed academic work, and examined tourist publications that describe the area's features in depth. In addition, the team communicated with local community leaders, experts in various topic areas, and residents to learn more about the area's history, culture, and what makes the Finger Lakes traditions and lived-in landscape unique.

Through this research and these conversations, the team learned about the diversity of resources, various regional identities, numerous local organizations and economic development groups, and countless stories within the study area. This information informed a draft narrative report titled, "Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study—Historic Context and Nationally Important Themes" (hereafter referred to as the "historic context report"). That document describes the study area's history, culture, and impact on our nation's history. The report also presents potential interpretive themes that could illustrate nationally important stories of the Finger Lakes and places that demonstrate these themes.

Public feedback on the historic context report, as well as public opinion on the designation of a national heritage area and its potential management, was solicited during a public commenting period between March 1 and June 1, 2021.

This public comment summary document provides a high-level summary of input gathered from interested and affected individuals, groups, businesses, governments, elected officials, and a variety of state and local agencies during the Finger Lakes national heritage area feasibility study public commenting period. The National Park Service has solicited input from native nations, which will be incorporated into the study when received. Information collected will assist the feasibility study team with identification of issues and concerns related to the study area and help the National Park Service gauge the level of interest in national heritage area designation.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

Public outreach for the feasibility study has been ongoing over the past year and has included multiple formats.

Focus Group Sessions

In May of 2020, the National Park Service hosted 14 virtual focus group-type sessions with each of the counties included in the study area (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, and Yates). The Finger

Lakes Tourism Alliance Board assisted the National Park Service with the selection of focus group members, who were chosen for their local knowledge related to natural resources, cultural resources, local traditions/lifeways, county history, recreational opportunities, educational opportunities, and/or the economic benefits of heritage tourism in their county.

During each two-hour session, NPS facilitators shared a brief presentation providing background on the national heritage areas program and the feasibility study process. Following the presentation, NPS staff engaged with participants in an informal conversation about the significance of the Finger Lakes area and resources found within each county. NPS staff asked the group to answer three discussion questions related to the national heritage area evaluation criteria. The questions were:

Question 1: What makes the Finger Lakes a nationally distinctive area and how does the 14-county study area contribute to, or exemplify, a distinctive aspect of America's national heritage? How does the area's history and natural landscape fit into a broader idea of national heritage? What unique American stories are being told here and why is the Finger Lakes the place to tell them?

Question 2: What are examples of continuing customs and traditions, including amongst populations underrepresented in the overall historic narrative, evident in your county that link the current Finger Lakes landscape and people to the area's national importance?

Question 3: What tangible resources in your county illustrate the distinct history and landscape of the study area and can support heritage tourism? How can visitors experience and understand the historic, cultural, and natural significance of the Finger Lakes and the ongoing customs and traditions identified that illustrate it in your county?

NPS staff also encouraged participants to review the focus group summary notes and share additional information or sources with the NPS study team as a follow-up to the session. The input received during these sessions was used to inform the development of the historic context report.

Public Comment Phase (March 1–June 1, 2021)

In the spring of 2021, the National Park Service initiated a public comment period (March 1 through June 1, 2021) for the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study. The team solicited public feedback on the feasibility study through an interactive ArcGIS StoryMap website and the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website (also known as the project website). These efforts were announced via press release to local and regional media. The press release provided information about the story map, which provided direct links to the project website and survey. In addition, information about the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was presented at over 24 local government and/or regional/nongovernment organization meetings, which included:

- 9 individual county governments
- 1 multicounty government group
- 2 regional planning councils
- 1 city government

-
- 8 watershed/lake associations
 - 3 nongovernment organizations

These presentations provided an opportunity for the National Park Service to speak directly to residents and many elected officials and government staff in communities and counties scattered throughout the heart of the Finger Lakes area. The National Park Service’s strategy relied as much as possible on public meetings compliant with New York State’s Open Meetings Law as well as presentations to regional and local organizations that could help spread the word broadly beyond those in attendance.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Public Response

The National Park Service received a total of 412 correspondences via the project website, emailed comments, mailed letters, and survey responses. The National Park Service sought public feedback by requesting (1) responses to a seven-question survey related to the feasibility study, (2) feedback on the historic context report, and (3) geospatial comments on the extent of the Finger Lakes region. The survey questions and historic context report were posted on the project website and the link (<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/FingerLakes>) that was shared via press release and during informational meetings.

Of the total number of correspondences received, 172 were direct responses to the survey questions and 240 were resolutions or open-ended letters providing opinions or feedback (edits or comments) on the historic context report. The resolutions received from county and municipal governments were all submitted in support of designation of a national heritage area, and many also indicated support for a preferred coordinating entity and a preferred NHA boundary. No resolutions were received in opposition to designation of a national heritage area. Letters of support were also received from members of state and national representatives and senators.

Comments were received from every county in the 14-county study area, from New York residents outside of the study area, and from out-of-state respondents.

Thirty-six of the correspondences received were adopted resolutions in support of the national heritage area designation. These resolutions were received from various local towns/cities/villages, municipal organizations, local counties, planning and development boards, and organizations/associations. All of these resolutions articulated support for the designation of a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, and many of them expressed support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance administering the national heritage area as the local coordinating entity. Resolutions were received from the following entities:

- Board of Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
- Board of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
- Board of Supervisors Seneca County
- Board of the Steuben County Conference and Visitors Bureau
- Board of the Town of Montezuma
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

-
- City of Geneva
 - Conesus Lake Association
 - Cortland County Legislature
 - County Legislature of Onondaga County
 - Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council
 - Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association
 - Keuka Lake Association
 - Ontario County Board of Supervisors
 - Schuyler County Legislature
 - Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
 - Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
 - Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Smith Center for the Arts
 - Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board
 - Steuben County Legislature
 - Tioga County Local Development Corporation
 - Tioga County Planning Board
 - Tompkins County Legislature
 - Town of Candor Planning Board
 - Town of Montour
 - Town of Reading
 - Village of Aurora
 - Village of Burdett
 - Village of Trumansburg
 - Village of Union Springs Board
 - Village of Watkins Glen Board of Trustees
 - Wayne County Board of Supervisors
 - Yates County Country Cooperative
 - Yates County Legislature

In addition, correspondences were received from businesses and various types of organizations, including one existing national heritage area (Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor), both within and outside of the 14-county New York study area. Like the resolutions passed by local governments, most of these letters expressed support for the designation of a national heritage area in the Finger Lakes, and many indicated support for the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance as a local coordinating entity. Letters of support for designation were also received from members of state and national representatives and senators. The following organizations sent correspondences:

- Backbone Ridge History Group
- Bristol Hills Historical Society
- Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce
- Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association
- Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway
- Chemung County Chamber of Commerce

-
- Chemung County Historical Society
 - Conesus Lake Association
 - Congress of the United States House of Representatives
 - Cornell Botanic Gardens
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension, Steuben County
 - Corning Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Corning's Gaffer District
 - Corning Museum of Glass
 - Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
 - Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
 - Finger Lakes Regional Tourism Council
 - Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association
 - Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex
 - Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park
 - Genesee Country Village & Museum
 - Geneva City Council
 - Geneva Historical Society
 - Greater Syracuse Hospitality & Tourism Association
 - Historic Owego Marketplace
 - Historic Palmyra
 - Ithaca/Tompkins County Convention & Visitors Bureau
 - League of Women Voters of Schuyler County
 - Livingston County Planning Department
 - Local Historians and Representatives of Museums and Historical Societies in Seneca County
 - National Soaring Museum
 - New York Bicycling Coalition
 - New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
 - New York State Assembly
 - New York State Senate
 - Pal-Mac Lions Club
 - Schuyler County Historical Society
 - Schuyler County Legislature
 - Seneca County Chamber of Commerce
 - Seneca Falls Heritage and Tourism Center
 - Smith Center for the Arts
 - Steuben County Conference & Visitors Bureau
 - Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters
 - Tanglewood Nature Center and Museum
 - Town of Hector
 - Town of Homer
 - Town of Horseheads

-
- Town of Montezuma
 - Town of Nichols
 - Town of Tioga
 - US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
 - United States Senate
 - Visit Rochester
 - Visit Syracuse
 - Watkins Glen Chamber of Commerce
 - Watkins-Montour Rotary Club
 - Wayne Historians Organization
 - Women’s Rights Alliance of New York State
 - Yates County Chamber of Commerce

And from the following businesses:

- Bristol Mountain
- Bunnell Associates
- Casella Farms
- Destination Niagara Falls
- Experience the Finger Lakes
- Hoffman Development Associates
- Holiday Inn Elmira Riverview
- Owl Gorge Productions
- Schuyler Hospital
- Seneca Lake Winery Association
- Seneca White Deer
- Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion
- Sunset View Creamery
- The Olde Country Store and More
- Travel Market Insights
- Underwater Resources
- Watkins Sporting Goods

Public Feedback

In addition to open-ended input associated with support and concerns about designation (see the question #7 topic summary below), many correspondences responded to the survey questions posed on the project website. The survey questions were:

1. *What specific sites—historic places, natural areas, bodies of water, geographic or manmade features, counties, cities/communities—epitomize the Finger Lakes Region and set it apart from the rest of New York and neighboring states?*
2. *Do you think the Finger Lakes Region is a nationally notable area? Should it be recognized as a National Heritage Area? Why or why not?*
3. *What stories and histories have shaped the culture of the Finger Lakes?*
4. *What customs or traditions do you associate with the Finger Lakes? These could include food, festivals, activities, groups/organizations.*

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5. *When you recreate in the Finger Lakes Region, what do you like to do and where do you like to go?*
 6. *If a National Heritage Area was created in the Finger Lakes Region, who should manage it?*
 7. *Do you have any ideas or concerns about creating a Finger Lakes National Heritage Area?*
 8. *Do you have any other comments or questions you would like to share with the study team?*

The following is a brief overview of respondent comments, broken down by survey question. While many commenters responded to the actual survey questions, others submitted letters and emails freely expressing their thoughts. The team assessed input from all correspondences received and it is summarized below under the categories of each survey question.

Question #1: What specific sites—historic places, natural areas, bodies of water, geographic or manmade features, counties, cities/communities—epitomize the Finger Lakes Region and set it apart from the rest of New York and neighboring states?

Respondents to question 1 identified types of features (e.g., waterfalls) and types of sites (e.g., state parks). Responses also provided specifically named museums, parks, and other historic and natural sites (“x” waterfall in “x” state park). A summary of these responses follows.

Types of Features—Types of features identified included, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Natural features:**
 - North-south deep glacier-carved lakes
 - Gorges and chasms
 - Gullies
 - Waterfalls and cascades
 - Topography of drumlins and lakes between them
 - “Pristine” and “fresh” water resources
 - Landscapes with micro-climates
 - Oak openings / Savannahs
 - Woodlands, steeply forested lands, old growth forests
 - Unique habitats and endangered flora
 - Fossil depositions
- **Cultural sites/features:**
 - Colonial settlement patterns (with a hamlet or village every 5-7 miles)
 - Gorge communities

- Farming communities
- Regional architectural styles and building materials
- Underground Railroad “safe houses” or “stations”
- Amish and Mennonite communities
- Educational institutions (universities and colleges) and their built environment/campuses
- **Working lands and structures, culinary infrastructure, and agricultural products/food:**
 - Vineyard landscapes and their scenic views
 - Rich, arable land
 - Small-scale farms
 - Wineries (120+) including those along the glacial moraines
 - Farmers markets and farm stands
 - Agricultural products including wine, milk, yogurt, cheese, apples
 - Farm-to-table network including restaurants
 - Wells barns
 - Cobblestone architecture

Types of Sites and Named Sites—In addition to the general features commenters identified, many respondents included specifically named sites and places as contributing to the history and unique cultural and natural landscape of the Finger Lakes. These comments included not only “state parks” and “historic sites” but also agricultural land, former railroad lines, and other types of sites related to the unique American stories displayed in the Finger Lakes region. Many of the named sites mentioned in response to question #1 were included on the historic context report, which was open for public comment as part of this public engagement effort. Places suggested for consideration via public comment included sites from all 14 counties in the study area as well as some from outside, including:

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| ● 1867 Parkview Inn | ● Allan H. Treman State Marine Park | ● Barge Canal |
| ● 19th-century grist mill at Robert H. Treman State Park | ● American Rock Salt in Groveland | ● Batavia Club of Genesee |
| ● Abbey of the Genesee | ● Arnot Art Museum | ● Batavia Downs |
| ● Alasa Farms | ● Aunt Sarah's Falls in Schuyler County | ● Belhurst Castle and Winery |
| ● Alex Haley Pool | ● Baltimore Woods Nature Center | ● Belva Lockwood Inn |
| ● Alexander Town Hall | ● Bare Hill Unique Area (Canandaigua) | ● Birthplace of Alex Haley (Ithaca) |

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- Bixby-Keeney House in LeRoy
 - Black Diamond Trail/The Rail Trail
 - Bob and Ruth's Vineyard Restaurant in Naples
 - Bonded Winery #1 in Hammondsport—Pleasant Valley Wine Company
 - Brand Park
 - Bristol Burning Springs
 - Budd Park
 - Burned-over District
 - Buttermilk Falls State Park
 - Carpenter Falls Unique Area
 - Cascadilla Gorge Natural Area
 - Case Research Lab Museum
 - Cass Park
 - Catharine Valley Trail
 - Cayuga and Seneca Wine Trails
 - Cayuga Museum of History & Art
 - Cayuga/Tompkins Cooperative Hunting Area
 - Chemung County Historical Society
 - Chimney Bluffs State Park
 - Clark Gully, Birthplace to the World (Haudenosaunee)
 - Clemens Center
 - Clute Park and Campground
 - Confluence of Tioga, Canisteo and Conhocton Rivers
 - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area
 - Cornell Botanic Gardens
 - Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 - Cornell University
 - Corning Museum of Glass
 - Cowsheds Upper Falls in Fillmore Glen State Park
 - Crescent Trail
 - Cumming Nature Center
 - Darien Lakes State Park
 - The Depot Museum of the Horseheads Historical Society
 - Downtown Owego Historic District
 - Dryden Lake
 - Eastman Community Music School
 - Eastman School of Music
 - Eight Square Schoolhouse
 - Eldridge Park
 - Elizabeth Cady Stanton House
 - Elmira Prison Camp
 - Enfield Glen
 - Erie Canal
 - Erie Canal Museum
 - Ernie Davis Burial
 - Erwin Wildlife Management Area
 - Fall Brook State Forest
 - Fillmore Glen State Park
 - Finger Lakes Boating Museum
 - Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack
 - Finger Lakes Museum
 - Finger Lakes National Forest
 - Finger Lakes Trail
 - Caledonia Fish Hatchery in 1864
 - Fort Hill Cemetery

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- Fort Ontario State Historic Site
 - Ganondagan State Historic Site
 - Garrett Memorial Chapel
 - Genesee Country Village and Museum
 - Genesee Valley Greenway
 - Genoa Historical Association Rural Life Museum
 - George Eastman House Museum
 - George Eastman Museum
 - Geva Theatre Center
 - Glen H Curtiss Aviation Museum
 - Glenora Falls in Keuka Park
 - Glenwood Cemetery
 - Greek Peak Mountain Resort
 - Grimes Glen Park
 - Groveland Ambuscade Monument
 - Hadrian Hill
 - Hanover Square Historic District
 - Harriet Tubman House
 - Harriet Tubman Museum & Education Center
 - Harris Hill Amusement Park
 - Havana Glen Park
 - Hector Falls
 - Hemlock-Canadice State Forest
 - Hemlock's "Little World's Fair"
 - Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art
 - Highland Park
 - Historic Canandaigua Boathouses on The City Pier (Canandaigua Lake)
 - History Center in Tompkins County
 - Hi-Tor Stone Monuments—Clark Gully
 - Hobart and William Smith Colleges
 - Holding Point, Horseheads Industrial Center
 - Holland Land Office Museum
 - Indian Monument in the Evergreen Cemetery
 - International Harvester Co. in Cayuga County
 - International Motor Racing Research Center
 - Ithaca College
 - Ithaca Falls
 - Ithaca Gun Company
 - The Jell-O Gallery
 - The Johnston House and Mike Weaver Drain Tile Museum
 - John W. Jones Museum
 - Junius Ponds Cabins and Campground
 - Kershaw Park
 - Keuka Lake
 - Keuka Lake Outlet Trail and Preservation Area
 - Labrador Hollow Unique Area
 - Lake Cayuta
 - Lake Como
 - Lavender Hill Commune
 - Letchworth State Park
 - Liberty Pole
 - Lick Brook Falls
 - Lime Hollow Nature Center
 - Lincoln Hill Farms Winery
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- Little Lakes Community Center
 - Little Theater
 - Lodi Point State Park
 - Lucifer Falls
 - Ludlowville Park
 - Mark Twain House & Grave
 - Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation
 - Montezuma Audubon Center
 - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge
 - Montour Falls
 - Moosewood Restaurant
 - Morgan Monument in the Batavia Cemetery
 - Morse/Borg Warner Chain Co.
 - Mount Morris Dam
 - Muller Field Station, Finger Lakes Community College
 - Museum of the Earth
 - Mushroom House
 - Myers Park
 - Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies
 - National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
 - National Cash Register Company in Ithaca
 - National Museum of the American Coverlet
 - National Soaring Museum and Airfield
 - National Women's Hall of Fame
 - National Women's History Museum
 - National Warplane Museum
 - Newfield's Bridge
 - Newtown Battlefield State Park
 - New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva
 - Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area
 - Old Homer Village Historic District
 - Ontario County Courthouse (Canandaigua)
 - Owego Central Historic District
 - Park Station County Park
 - Parrott Hall
 - Pleasant Valley Wine Company / Great Western Winery
 - President Millard Fillmore Birthplace—Cayuga County
 - Prison City Pub and Brewery
 - Queens Castle in Lodi (Camp Fossenvue)
 - Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area
 - Retsof Salt Mine
 - Reynold's Gully
 - Susquehanna River Walk and Timber Trail
 - Robert H. Treman State Park
 - Rob's Trail Preserve
 - Rochester Institute of Technology
 - Rose Hill Mansion
 - Rush Oak Openings Unique Area
 - Salisbury-Pratt Homestead (Oren Cravath's former farm)

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- Sampson Naval Training Station
 - Sampson State Park
 - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary
 - Schuyler County Historical Society Museum
 - Sciencenter Museum
 - Seabreeze Amusement Park
 - Seneca Army Depot
 - Seneca Art & Culture Center
 - Seneca Lake
 - Seymour Public Library
 - Shaker Heritage Society
 - SheQuaGa Falls
 - Six Flags Darien Lake Theme Park
 - Ska-Nonh-Great Law of Peace Center
 - Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion
 - Sonyea State Forest
 - Spencer Crest Nature and Research Center
 - Sperr Memorial Park
 - Spook Hill Drive
 - Squaw Island (Canandaigua)
 - St. John the Evangelist Church
 - Stafford Museum of History
 - Statue of Elizabeth Blackwell
 - Statue of Mary Jemison, Letchworth State Park
 - Statues of Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, Susan B. Anthony Square Park
 - Sterling Nature Center
 - Stewart Park, Ithaca
 - Stony Brook State Park
 - Strasenburg Planetarium, Rochester Museum & Science Center
 - The Strong National Museum of Play
 - Sullivan Campaign Historical Markers
 - Sullivans Monument at Newtown Battlefield State Park
 - Susan B. Anthony gravesite, Mount Hope Cemetery
 - Susan B. Anthony Museum & House
 - Syracuse University
 - Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum
 - Taughannock Falls State Park
 - Taylor Wine Company
 - Teal Park in Horseheads
 - Temple Sinai
 - Tinker Falls
 - Torture Tree
 - Town of Ithaca
 - Treleven Wines
 - Tutelo Park
 - Wadsworth Homestead
 - Wagner Vineyards
 - Walker House, Garrison
 - Waneta Lake
 - Watkins Glen State Park
 - Wells College
 - West Hill Preserve
 - Wharton Studio Museum
 - Widmer Wine Cellars
 - William H. Seward House Museum
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- William Osborn Stoddard's Birthplace
 - Windmill Farm and Craft Market
 - Windmill Market
 - Wisner Park
 - Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice
 - Women's Rights National Historical Park
 - Woodlawn National Cemetery
 - Yates County History Center
 - Zim Bandstand Historical Marker
 - Zimmerman House

Question #2: Do you think the Finger Lakes Region is a nationally notable area? Should it be recognized as a national heritage area? Why or why not?

Nearly all survey respondents agreed that the Finger Lakes region is a “nationally notable area” and/or the region should be “recognized as a National Heritage Area.” While many respondents did not directly say “yes” to this question, their responses, such as “History can be found in every nook and cranny of this rich area,” indicated a general agreement with one or both of the questions. Using this standard for acknowledgement/response, only one correspondence of the 172 responses to the surveys stated directly that either the region was not nationally notable and/or it should not be recognized as a national heritage area. Several respondents used comparisons to well-known tourist areas, protected sites, and/or existing national heritage areas as well as links in the story map as evidence that the Finger Lakes region should be (or already was, “unofficially”) a national heritage area.

Respondent’s reasons for why (or why not) the region was notable and/or should be recognized as a national heritage area varied. Reasons included references to both the natural and cultural resources in the study area. Some respondents also articulated what they believed and/or hoped that a national heritage area designation would provide to the region, including a broader awareness of Finger Lakes attractions that could lead to economic benefits and natural and cultural resource conservation.

Question #3: What stories and histories have shaped the culture of the Finger Lakes?

Commenters often reiterated the primary themes provided in the historic context report, including the history of settlement in the area; emergence of social movements; the evolution of agriculture, industry, and transportation; and the impact of the Haudenosaunee people. Many respondents stressed the importance of telling an accurate and full story of the Haudenosaunee people in the region and having representatives of native nations tell their own stories. Commenters often identified the strong links of the themes/stories to the land itself. For example, the specific geography, geology, climate, and soils fostered a unique agricultural heritage, and the location and orientation of the lakes allowed for the development of sheltered, independent communities and culture. Respondents also noted the interconnectedness of the various stories identified in the historic context report, such as the early transportation advances in the region and their impact on the spread of social and religious ideas and movements.

Commenters also suggested new themes and stories from the study area’s 14-county geography in response to the themes presented in the historic context report. For example, many respondents

identified the importance of social and religious movements on the region but also articulated was how a particular movement, such as the advancement of women’s rights, had on the Seneca Falls and the Syracuse areas. New suggestions for themes and stories included the area’s naval significance, diversity derived from geography, natural resource conservation, the arts, boat building, and other social movements. Survey comments that expanded on existing themes in the historic context report included insights on the Haudenosaunee’s impact and further information about the region’s significance in the history of transportation, industry, environmentalism, and influence on the history of American food and agriculture.

Themes and stories recommended in public comments:

- **Naval significance**
 - Quasi naval station in the center of Seneca Lake once used to test torpedoes and is now a testing center for sonar projects
- **Diversity within a small region derived from geography**
 - Diversity and variation in both natural and cultural environments across the area
- **Natural resource management/conservation**
 - Fisheries industry on Lake Ontario
 - History of fish hatcheries in the region—Seth Green started the first fish hatchery in 1864 in Caledonia, New York (Livingston County)
- **Settlement patterns and place names**
 - Region as the nation's first frontier expansion
 - Flourishing of boomtowns
 - History of the Holland Land Company
 - Grid patterns of towns due to early surveying
 - Region as one of the earliest vacation havens for the wealthy and powerful of New York City, resulting in many lakeside communities to become wealthy enclaves of grand homes Unique characteristics of many historic towns that remained intact due to space used by farms, parklands, and wineries.
 - Vineyards’ impact on the landscape
 - Most area lakes bear Native American names
 - Story of what was lost to development along lake shores
 - Culture of perseverance and independence
 - Impact of the War of 1812 on settlement and transportation patterns
 - Intact historical fabric in some areas due to their escape from urban renewal
 - Story of resettlement of families for the Finger Lakes National Forest
- **Arts**

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- Local theater (including outdoor and seasonal)
 - History of vaudeville
 - History of film, including silent films and the development of sound
 - Eastman Kodak’s role in the development of photography and cinematography
 - **Social movements, government programs, and philanthropy and their impact**
 - Legacy of social movements that has continued to shape the residents of today’s Finger Lakes region
 - Links between the various social movements and the impacts between them
 - Abolition
 - Women’s rights
 - Prison reform—Auburn
 - Religious movements (e.g., Burned-Over District, Mormons, Adventists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Shakers, Public Universal Friend)
 - Work by the Works Progress Administration in the region’s state parks
 - George Eastman’s funding to create Rochester’s major institutions/structures (Eastman School of Music and University of Rochester)
 - Formation of the first chapter of the Red Cross by Clara Barton in Dansville, New York, in 1881
 - Formation of the Agricultural Extension Service and citizen science
 - **Outdoor recreation**
 - Many opportunities for sustainable, low-impact outdoor recreation due to access to public land and clean water
 - **Boat building**
 - Millport’s many canal barges as a result of the construction of the canal (Chemung Scows & Lakers)
 - **Industry and environmentalism**
 - Forests’ destruction by sawmills in the 19th century
 - Salt mining under the lakes that still impacts the region today
 - First in flight
 - **The impact of the Haudenosaunee**
 - Agricultural knowledge native peoples shared with Europeans (orchards and the Three Sisters)
 - Local legends and stories still shared today—storytelling tradition

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- Canandaigua Treaty—the only unbroken treaty between a government entity and the Native Americans
 - Spiritual connection to the land and appreciation of nature
 - Location of historic trade routes and their connection to the present transportation network
 - Popularity of lacrosse that began in the region
 - Place names, including the names of the Finger Lakes themselves
 - **Transportation**
 - Use and impact of ferries and steamboats on the lakes
 - History and origins of the current routes—the road cut used for artillery in the Revolutionary War eventually became Route 14
 - Railroad's and Glen Trolley's route of 1895 contribution to prosperity of the area
 - **Development and impact of institutions of higher learning**
 - Cornell's heritage as one of the first land-grant universities after the passage of the Morrill Act of 1862 and Cornell's role in the development of the cooperative extension movement and research stations
 - Finger Lakes Consortium of Higher Education's 21 institutions
 - Faculty and visiting scholars bringing new ideas to the region from all over the world, continuing the legacy of innovation and the spread of new ideas
 - New York Central College, founded by abolitionists in 1849, not only hired black professors, but educated black, white, male, and female students in same classrooms with the same curriculum—something not done in that era
 - One of the first music schools—Ithaca College
 - Hobart and William Smith College (Geneva Medical College), where Elizabeth Blackwell became the first female doctor
 - **Food and agriculture**
 - Dairies
 - Wine making and vineyards
 - Early agritourism movement
 - Late 19th century recognition as the “Champagne Region of the West;” resilience of the wine industry following the temperance movement and prohibition growth of Taylor Wine company of the mid-20th century; passing of the Farm Winery Act of 1976
 - Passing of the Craft Beverages Act

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- Importance of the early farm-to-table food movement; emergence of internationally recognized Riesling coming out of the wine region; Moosewood Restaurant in Ithaca and its cookbook's success in launching of vegetarian cuisine
 - Strength of farming, preserved by relocated Pennsylvania Amish and Mennonite farmers
 - The lakes as a good microclimate for wine grapes
 - Poor soils and challenges for farmers, leading to good scientific advancement in agriculture
 - Small tenant farmers along the Erie Canal and their hatred for the monopolistic economic practices of slavery
 - Agricultural workers today from the Caribbean and Central America
 - Impact of the Erie Canal on the growth of agriculture
 - John Johnston and Robert Swan and the tiles manufactured in the region that improved farming
 - Ice fishing
 - Impact of the region's agricultural science/research on current crops
 - Cabbage farming ("Phelps is the sauerkraut capital of the world")
 - Muck farming in the ancient glacial lake beds north of the Finger Lakes
 - Highest concentration of cobblestone construction

Lastly, many respondents told stories of their family and growing up in the Finger Lakes, connecting the Finger Lakes and the land of many residents and former residents who return, to a region that evokes strong personal memories.

Question #4: What customs or traditions do you associate with the Finger Lakes? These could include food, festivals, activities, groups/organizations.

Commenters provided a broad list of customs and traditions, and many followed the examples provided in the question, "food, festivals, activities, groups/organizations" to help identify those customs and traditions. Many of the comments highlighted specific personal and family traditions that the respondents enjoyed (sometimes for many years and for generations) such as "fishing" or "visiting u-pick farms."

The following list summarizes customs and traditions identified and/or shared by many of the respondents. These responses include both general activities such as "attending agricultural festivals" and specific activities such as eating "grape pie at the Grape Festival in Naples." A few respondents expressed the hope that personal family traditions (that are also regional traditions) would be passed along to the next generation.

- **Customs, culture, and traditional work**
 - Tradition of conservation
 - The wine industry—a traditional business

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- Wine and craft brews culture
 - Early spring foraging of ramps and fiddleheads
 - Outdoor adventures and recreation as a family tradition in a pristine environment
 - Influences from strong, effective institutions of higher learning
 - **Ongoing events (small and large)**
 - State fair
 - Academic event—Hotel Ezra Cornell (student-led conference in its 96th year in 2021)
 - Sporting competitions—Wineglass Marathon, Seneca 7
 - “Ring of Fire” celebrations—Labor Day lighting of the perimeters of several lakes with flares that align with and give thanks for the autumnal harvest
 - Volunteer fire departments that host pancake dinners, fish fries, barbecues, and Election Day feasts as they are often polling places
 - New vintage releases at the wineries
 - **Activities (such as outdoor recreation and wine tours)**
 - Four-season outdoor recreation (including birdwatching, fishing, hunting)
 - Enjoying local food—custard, Zwiegle’s Hot Dogs, garbage plates, salt potatoes, cheese curds, local craft beverages including beer and wine, chicken BBQ with Bob Baker’s sauce recipe
 - Hiking, bicycling
 - Lake activities—sailing, boating, and paddle boarding
 - Wine-tasting (particularly Rieslings), beer tasting, wine tours, and visiting farmers markets
 - Shopping the downtowns of Finger Lakes towns
 - Attending summer parades
 - Family activities that are passed on from one generation to the next
 - Attending NASCAR racing events
 - Activities to support conservation (bird monitoring through clubs)
 - Lakeside vacationing
 - Family activities like camping
 - Winemaking
 - Watching college sports
 - Winter sports (Nordic skiing, snowshoeing) and enjoyment of the snow
 - Farm-to-table food production

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- Fine dining
 - Native American dance workshops
 - Historic buildings and grave-site tours
 - Hiking tours
 - Cheese tours
 - Agricultural and rural life activities
 - Square and contra dancing
 - **Festivals (celebrating the unique resources of the area)**
 - Agricultural festivals, including harvest festivals and competitions—Grape Festival, Apple festivals, Marathon Maple Festival, the International Rutabaga Curl, Peppermint Festival, Dryden Dairy Days, history of Buckwheat Festival, Finger Lakes Wine Festival, Farm Bureau Farm Days, country fairs, and wine, 4H competitions
 - Seasonal and holiday festivals: Cohocton Fall Foliage Festival, Fire and Ice Winter Festival (downtown Canandaigua), Flares on the Lake for Fourth of July, Memorial Day celebration
 - Transportation—Celebrations of the Erie Canal, Keuka Lake Seaplane Festival, Balloon Festival, sailing regattas
 - Arts/Music festivals: Grassroots Festival, Rochester Jazz Festival, Canandaigua Lakefront Art Show (in its 47th year in 2021), Glass Festival (Corning) Plein Air Arts Festival (Canandaigua), It’s a Wonderful Life Festival (Seneca Falls), Auburn Musical Theatre Festival, Skaneateles’ 40+ years of lakeside concert history
 - July 4th fly-in breakfast at the Penn Yan flying club
 - Ethnic festivals
 - Hill Cumorah Pageant
 - Historic wooden boat celebrations—Skaneateles Antique Boat Show
 - Watkins Glen Grand Prix
 - National Lake Trout Derby and Bass Masters Fishing competition
 - Women’s rights—Convention Days, Annual induction of women into the National Hall of Fame

Question #5: When you recreate in the Finger Lakes region, what do you like to do and where do you like to go?

Respondents identified the extensive trail system and the numerous state and local parks in the Finger Lakes as some of the top assets in the region that allowed for a variety of recreational activities. Commenters also viewed recreation in its broadest sense and included visiting museums and historic sites and other indoor “recreation” in addition to the more traditional outdoor recreational activities. Many of the outdoor recreational activities mentioned included those available during the warmer months, such as swimming and boating; however, commenters also

appreciated the “four-season” nature of the region. Question #4 above also includes many of the recreational activity responses.

Commenters highlighted the region’s high water quality in lakes and other bodies of water as an aspect of the water resources that permitted recreational activities. Although respondents noted that public access to the waterfront was not available on some lakes in the region, most respondents appreciated the number of state and local parks as well as the Finger Lakes National Forest and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Respondents noted that those public parks provided access to hiking trails, boat launches, and other amenities for outdoor recreation as well as the conflicts that can arise between users in multiuse areas.

Question #6: If a national heritage area was created in the Finger Lakes region, who should manage it?

The question of a preferred management entity provided a greater challenge to survey takers than many of the other questions. Several of the survey respondents did not respond to this question and some were unsure and/or stated that they did not have enough information to provide a response. For those providing the name of a specific organization/agency as a management entity, commenters sometimes followed the suggestion with a question mark, likely indicating that additional information was needed to make a more informed decision.

As in other survey questions, some respondents identified general features of a management entity they would like to see (such as managed by local constituents and/or managed by an organization with a conservation focus) and/or offered the name of a specific organization or agency they thought would be worth considering as a managing entity. These two types of responses were not mutually exclusive, and often survey takers emphasized the feature, such as “regional,” and then added, “such as X organization.” Commenters provided the following preferred features of a potential management entity:

- Regionwide group
- Partnership, collaboration, and joints effort between communities/constituencies
- Local management
- Management at and/or between the local, state, and national levels
- Public-private entity
- Representation from the business community
- Local representation—by geography
- Mechanism that allows for input from citizens
- New, separate, and/or independent organization
- Mix of disciplines represented (history, tourism, natural resources, education, economic development)
- Structure that includes the native nations in the region
- Conservation and/or tourism focus

At least one respondent expressed interest in a regional management structure for their county, regardless of the overall regional management structure implemented for the national heritage area. Many respondents wanted to ensure that their constituency be represented, whether that be a community, county, or lake.

Respondents also identified specific organizations/agencies by type (state, federal government agency) and by name, identifying the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance and National Park Service most often. In mentioning specific entities, commenters offered a variety of roles, including management, oversight, and advisory positions. Even though the National Park Service was identified, the respondents may be considering the National Park Service as an advisor in the management process and not necessarily as the management entity. Of the entities identified by name, only the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance self-identified their intent and desire to serve as a coordinating entity. Commenters identified the following entities:

- Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance
- National Park Service (or general federal involvement)
- Finger Lakes Land Trust
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

In some cases, a commenter provided a hybrid answer, such as a specific existing entity with a different internal structure to manage the national heritage area. Many respondents not only mentioned the types of management entities they would support (such as an economic development organization) but also the types of activities that would be critical for the management entity to perform (such as land conservation.)

Question #7: Do you have any ideas or concerns about creating a Finger Lakes national heritage area?

Overwhelmingly, respondents to the survey had no concerns and/or their response reiterated their support for designating the region as a national heritage area. In addition, letters received independent of the survey expressed support for the designation of the Finger Lakes as a national heritage area. These correspondences were received from a range of individuals, organizations, official representatives, and municipalities. Letters repeatedly mentioned the rich history and unique geography as rationale for the support.

A small number of comments expressed concern about elements of the feasibility study. These concerns included objecting to the boundary representation of the Cayuga Nation as indicated on NPS maps, questioning the inclusion of the large cities of Rochester and Syracuse within the proposed national heritage area boundary, and questioning the need for the designation.

A few respondents expressed support for the designation but also concern for some aspect of the process. Below are the broad categories of concerns, which were mentioned by only a handful of respondents:

- Impact from increased tourism, including the need for new/upgrades to physical infrastructure and loss of housing to short-term rentals

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- Concern that all stories of the region will not be told—especially the Haudenosaunee voices
 - General protection of natural resources including clean water
 - Concern that the governing structure of any future NHA entity be bottom-up, include involvement from local government, and have equal representation across the region and various constituencies
 - Concern that the boundary of the area encompasses too much or not enough land and suggestions for the inclusion of other New York counties (beyond the 14 of the study area) within the boundary
 - Threat of overdevelopment and insensitive development, especially in areas that impact natural resources or development that is not climate friendly
 - Concern about sustainable funding and equitable funding across the region
 - Loss of certain activities, such as hiking and hunting, to federal regulations or restrictions
 - Increase in regulations on private property (including the use of privately owned historic properties) and too much involvement by the federal government instead of local policy and control
 - Protection of natural resources, including open space and scenic resources from wind turbines and solar panels
 - Need for economic development (especially jobs)
 - Loss of affordable housing and gentrification
 - Concern that the NHA designation will not happen

Commenters also voiced suggestions and ideas for implementing a national heritage area, should a designation occur. These suggestions included:

- Return the lake-crossing ferries
- Tell lesser-known stories
- Save historical sites in poor condition
- Contribute to jobs for underrepresented groups
- Provide more information centers with staffed guidance and brochures for tourists
- Include basic provisions, and/or references for leveraging funding for watershed and water quality protection efforts
- Provide each county equal opportunity to develop projects that meet the guidelines of the national heritage area program
- Encourage each site's participation in the NPS Passport Program
- Develop an official history trail in the region to complement the many food and beverage trails

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- Develop a historical tour along the path of the Chemung Canal that would include all villages that were on the canal
 - Encourage school trips, antique shows, camping trips, history tours, and food and wine tours
 - Provide more strategically placed overlook areas and platform towers for the countless views that are not easily accessible
 - Manage overuse, traffic, and congestion through strategies developed by areas experiencing similar problems with great natural beauty
 - Develop a zip line/ropes course near Glenwood Heights Road and the Black Diamond Trail
 - Develop an entity to address private citizens rights, property rights
 - Provide NPS technical assistance on appropriate preservation efforts to communities that have plans and regulations already in place but do not need another layer of regulation for local decision-making

Question #8: Do you have any other comments or questions you would like to share with the study team?

The responses to this question overlapped many of the responses from previous questions and included concern over preservation of resources, general support, additional resources to be added to the inventory, general feedback on the historic context report, and comments on potential management entities. Some respondents asked how they could become involved as volunteers or made suggestions for interpretation if the designation occurs. A handful of commenters expressed support for the feasibility study process and appreciation for the NPS presentations on the study effort. Several commenters indicated a desire for local control and management of a natural heritage area should one be designated, and a small number of correspondences expressed opposition to the designation due to the federal government's association.

MAPPING THE FINGER LAKES REGION

In addition to the survey questions, the StoryMap website asked visitors to engage with an interactive mapping tool to circle the area they personally identify as comprising the "Finger Lakes." A total of 56 people responded to the request. The graphic below (figure 2) depicts a heat map that shows both the percentage and number of individual respondents in agreement that any particular location is a part of the "Finger Lakes" region. The pale-yellow portion of the map represents the area that respondents unanimously depicted as the Finger Lakes region. The color shifts to various shades moving outward, depicting increased variability in the responses and less group consensus.

What is the Finger Lakes Region? Finger Lakes National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior


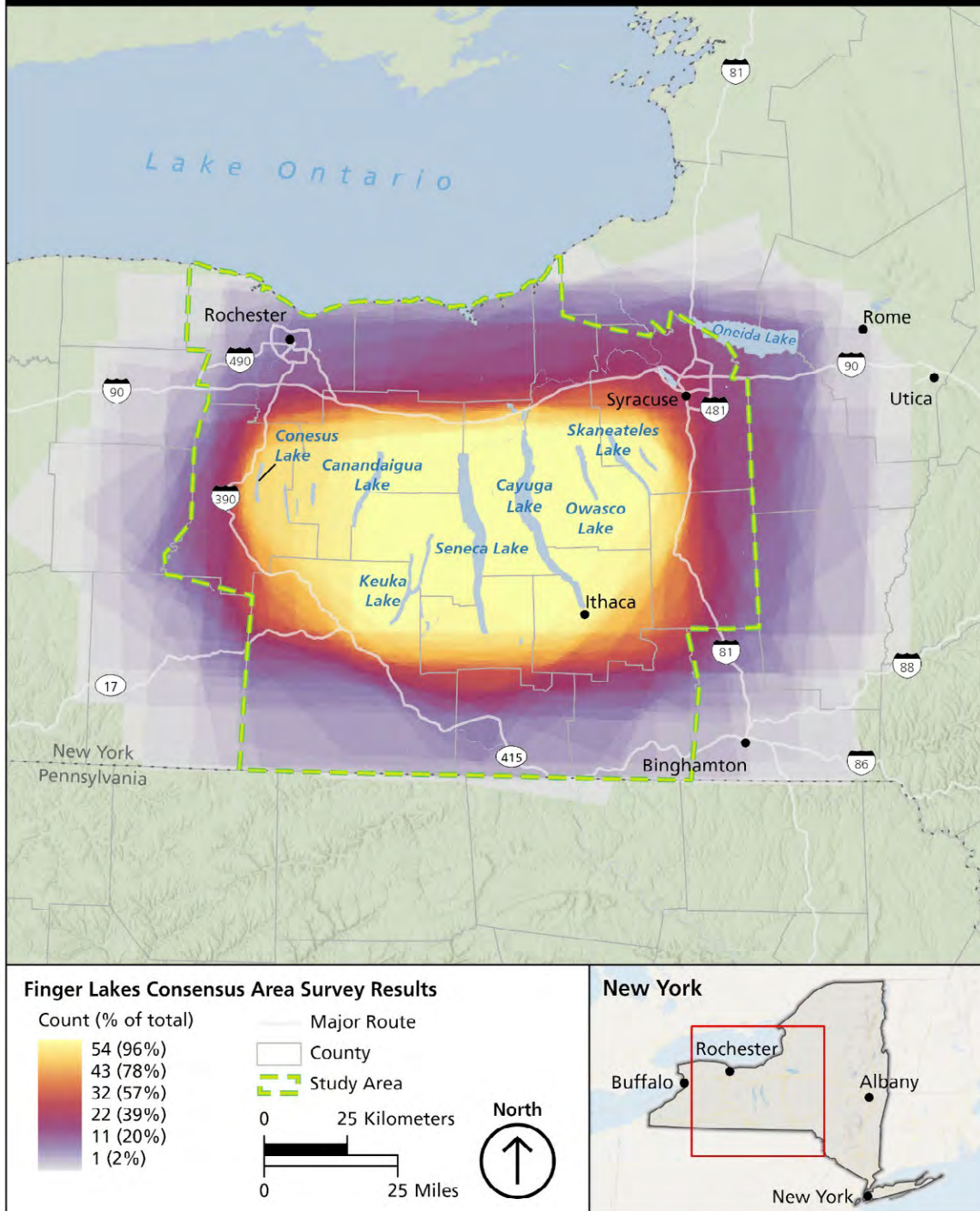



Figure 2. Mapped responses to the StoryMap interactive question, “What is the Finger Lakes Region?”

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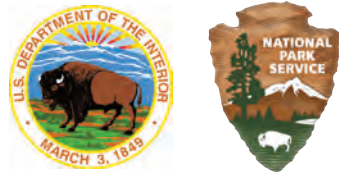
BACK COVER PHOTOS

Top row, left: Shequaga Falls in Montour Falls. Courtesy of the Watkins Glen Chamber of Commerce.

Top row, right: Grave marker of Susan B. Anthony at Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York. Photo credit: Chelsea Wernick. Courtesy of Visit Rochester.

Bottom row, left: Bottom row, center: Aerial view of Treleaven Winery in King Ferry, New York, with Cayuga Lake in the background. Photo credit: Matt Champlin.

Bottom row, right: Wells College and Cayuga Lake in Aurora, New York. Photo credit: Bill Hecht.



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under US administration.



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