

New York State Parks

*Alienation and
Conversion
Of Parkland in
New York*

Overview and Resources



Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
State of New York

Rose Harvey, Commissioner
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency

New York State Parks

Parkland Alienation and Conversion

Municipally owned parkland and open space are nonrenewable resources which are carefully preserved in all communities. While the preservation of municipal parks and open space is our goal, OPRHP recognizes that sometimes a change in use of parkland may be necessary. OPRHP endorses a “no net loss of parkland” policy.

Parkland “alienation” occurs when a municipality wishes to sell, lease, or discontinue municipal parkland. These actions require the municipality to receive prior authorization from the State in the form of legislation enacted by the New York State Legislature and approved by the Governor. Parkland “conversion” may also apply to municipal parks in New York State. Parks with Federal dollars invested are subject to both alienation and conversion procedures.

This brochure is designed to provide a brief overview of the alienation and conversion processes. For more detailed information, please see the *Handbook on the Alienation and Conversion of Municipal Parkland in New York*.



RESOURCES

OPRHP

Handbook on the Alienation and Conversion of Municipal Parkland in New York
<http://nysparks.com/publications/documents/AlienationHandbook.pdf>

National Park Service
Land and Water Conservation Fund Manual, Chapter 8—Post Completion and Stewardship
<http://www.nps.gov/nrc/programs/lwcf>

Other Resources:

New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM)
<http://nycom.org>
(518) 463-1185

New York State Association of Towns
<http://www.nytowns.org>
(518) 465-7933

New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC)
<http://nysac.org>
(518) 465-1473

Regional Grant Administrators

ALIENATION:

Occurs when a municipality sells, leases or discontinues parkland.

The primary role of OPRHP is to provide advice and guidance to the municipality, concerned citizens, the Governor and the Legislature. In instances where public grant funds have been invested in the park, OPRHP is more involved.

When considering a change in use of parkland or recreational areas, the municipality must:

1. First determine if the action is an alienation.
2. Explore other options to avoid using parkland.
3. Involve the public.
4. Notify OPRHP—municipalities are encouraged to contact the Regional Grants Officer in their area early in the process.
5. Determine if State or Federal funds were invested in the park.
6. Complete the Parkland Alienation Municipal Information Form (see *Handbook*)
7. Contact your local State legislative sponsor.
8. Draft legislation with the help of the legislative sponsor and OPRHP Counsels Office
9. Pass a Municipal Home Rule Request.
10. Conduct a review pursuant to State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)

CONVERSION:

Only applies to municipal parks that have received Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) funds and are being conveyed or taken out of outdoor recreation use, in whole or in part.

The role of OPRHP is to act as a liaison between the municipality and the National Park Service (NPS).

When a municipality is considering the conversion of Federally mapped parkland (resulting from a LWCF or UPARR grant) it must work through OPRHP to seek NPS approval, as follows:

1. Complete an environmental review with documentation pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
2. Determine the effect of the conversion on historic resources pursuant to NEPA.
3. Select substitute lands and submit appraisals (Federal standards apply).
4. Ensure that replacement lands and remaining lands meet eligibility requirements.
5. Coordinate review with other Federal Agencies.
6. Prepare survey maps.
7. Submit the package to the NPS through OPRHP.

NOTE: Generally speaking, conversion of municipal parkland is also alienation. Alienation legislation must be enacted prior to submission of the conversion package to NPS.

ALLEGANY REGION

Lynn LeFeber

Allegany State Park

2373 ASP Rte 1, Salamanca, NY 14779

(716) 354-9101 ext 235, FAX (716) 354-6755

COUNTIES: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua

CENTRAL REGION

Jean Egenhofer

Clark Reservation, Jamesville, NY 13078

(315) 492-1756, FAX (315) 492-3277

COUNTIES: Oswego, Oneida, Onondaga, Cortland, Chenango, Otsego, Madison, Broome, Herkimer, Delaware

FINGER LAKES REGION

Laurie Moore

2221 Taughannock Park Road

RD 3, Box 283, Trumansburg, NY 14886

(607) 387-7041 ext 103, FAX (607) 387-3390

COUNTIES: Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Steuben, Seneca, Cayuga, Schuyler, Tioga, Tompkins, Chemung

GENESEE REGION

Karen Ferguson

1 Letchworth State Park

Castile, NY 14427

(585) 493-3613, FAX (585) 493-5272

COUNTIES: Orleans, Monroe, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston

LONG ISLAND REGION

Traci Christian

Belmont Lake State Park

PO Box 247, Babylon, NY 11702-0247

(631) 321-3543, FAX (631) 321-3721

COUNTIES: Nassau, Suffolk

NEW YORK CITY REGION

Merrill Hesch

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Bldg.

163 West 125th Street, 17th Floor, NY, NY 10027

(212) 866-2599, FAX (212) 866-3186

COUNTIES: Bronx, New York, Kings, Queens, Richmond

NIAGARA REGION

Noelle Kardos

Niagara Reservation

PO Box 1132, Niagara Falls, NY 14303

(716) 278-1761, FAX (716) 278-1744

COUNTIES: Erie, Niagara

SARATOGA/CAPITAL DISTRICT REGION

Cathy Jepson

Saratoga Spa State Park

19 Roosevelt Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-6214

(518) 584-2000, FAX (518) 584-5694

COUNTIES: Essex, Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schoharie, Albany, Greene, Warren, Washington, Rensselaer, Schenectady

TACONIC & PALISADES REGIONS

Erin O'Neil

Taconic Regional Office

9 Old Post Road, PO Box 308, Staatsburg, NY 12580

(845) 889-3865, FAX (845) 889-8321

COUNTIES: Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester

THOUSAND ISLANDS REGION

Gayle Underhill-Plumb

Keewaydin State Park, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

(315) 482-2593, FAX (315) 482-9413

COUNTIES: Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton