

Please find below information regarding the **Boreas Pond properties** and the request for reasonable access that the “Five Towns”, your neighboring communities feel is in the best interest to be classified by the Adirondack Park Agency. The AATV is supporting the request of the “Five Towns” and asking for your assistance also. Please attend one of the local hearings that have started, share the information with your board and submit a letter of support to Governor Cuomo and APA Representative Kathy Regan. Working together, we can make a difference.

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Ask Gov. Cuomo and the APA to Allow Reasonable Public Access to This Adirondack Gem

The Boreas Ponds Property: You Ought to See It !

For more than a century, the beautiful Boreas Ponds property in the heart of the Adirondack Park was a private recreational getaway, open only to its owners and their guests, and to the private clubs that leased the land for recreational purposes.

In May 2016, New York State purchased the 20,758-acre property with \$14.5 million in taxpayer funds, at which time Gov. Cuomo said, “This will provide even more unparalleled settings for outdoor tourism and recreation, and I encourage New Yorkers to visit the region and see what they’ve been missing.”

We applaud Governor Cuomo for his vision, and urge him and the Adirondack Park Agency to ensure that people of all ages and abilities soon have a reasonable opportunity to enjoy this Adirondack gem.

Park Agency Comment Period Open

The Adirondack Park Agency has opened a public comment period on a state land-use classification for the recently acquired property, which will determine to what extent the public will be able to access and enjoy it in the future.

Some groups are advocating for a “Wilderness” classification that would severely limit access for the disabled, children, the elderly and others who are unable to walk long distances.

Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages (AATV) believes that a classification that will allow reasonable access for people of all ages and abilities, combined with common-sense controls to protect the environment, is the best approach.

Our View

- We believe the Park Agency should recommend a “Wild Forest” classification that will provide the public with reasonable access, using the existing roads, while putting in place common-sense controls to protect the environment. We are NOT calling for ATV use, but believe that the heavy-duty logging roads in existence lend themselves well to bicycle and snowmobile use, including the road leading to and around the ponds.
- The Adirondack Park Agency Act requires the Agency to classify state lands according to “their characteristics and capacity to withstand use.” The Adirondack Park State Land Use Master Plan defines “Wilderness” as “... an area where the earth and its community are untrammelled by man ...” The characteristics of the Boreas Ponds property, and its capacity to withstand use, dictate a “Wild Forest” classification.
- The Boreas Ponds property is beautiful, but can in no way, be considered “Wilderness.”

The former owner used the property as a company retreat for its customers, leased portions of the land to hunting and fishing clubs, and sustainably managed the land for timber production. The ponds are man-made, through construction of a dam, which remains in place today. An extensive network of roads leads to and around the ponds, and was used by logging trucks for generations. The property is home to 10 hunting and fishing cabins, and, for the past two decades, was home to a 3,000-square-foot lodge that was only recently removed. The existing infrastructure makes the property ideally suited for public recreation.

- New York State’s acquisition of spectacular recreational properties like the Boreas Ponds can attract more visitors to the Adirondacks and strengthen the economies of small Adirondack towns — if those properties are reasonably accessible.
- Access and environmental protection are not goals in opposition. The combination has worked well throughout much of the Adirondack Park. Public access builds appreciation for the forest and Adirondack communities and attracts new visitors to the region.
- By maintaining reasonable access to the Boreas Ponds property and giving recreationalists a new place to visit, we will relieve some of the public over-use of the Adirondack High Peaks.
- Keeping the Boreas Ponds property accessible to children of all ages will provide parents with a valuable opportunity to teach their families about respect for the environment.

AATV encourages you to ask Gov. Cuomo and the Adirondack Park Agency to allow reasonable public access to the Boreas Ponds with a “Wild Forest” classification.

You can contact the Governor and the Park Agency by visiting www.accessadk.com, or writing to:

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

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Here's a link to a video showing the beauty of The Boreas Ponds Property:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kcjn524j2ggmuh9/Boreas%20Video%2001.mov?dl=0>