

# VILLAGE OF POTSDAM

## Planning and Development Office

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### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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#### **Raquette River Blueway Trail to Release Voluntary Stewardship Plan at Information Meetings**

The Raquette River Blueway Trail working group will release a Draft Voluntary Stewardship Plan at information meetings to be held in Massena, Potsdam and Tupper Lake. The Raquette River Blueway Trail is a regional partnership that works to enhance the tourism economy and revitalize rural communities along the 174 – mile long river corridor. Over the last decade, the Raquette River Blueway Trail has undertaken a variety of projects intended to improve public access to the Raquette River to serve residents and travelers to the region.

“The Raquette River offers residents and visitors with a wide range of year-round outdoor recreational experiences,” said Fred Hanss, project coordinator for the trail. “Being good stewards of this unique natural resource goes hand-in-hand with promoting its tourism potential.” Because the Raquette River Blueway Trail is not a regulatory agency, its voluntary stewardship plan relies on residents, community groups and clubs and municipalities to advance efforts to among other things: protect water quality, combat invasive species, maintain trails and to build public awareness of the resource.

The Raquette River Blueway Trail will hold information meetings as follows:

Potsdam Civic Center Community Room  
2 Park Street, Potsdam, NY  
5:00 P.M. on December 5, 2016

Aaron Maddux Hall  
178 DeMars Blvd.  
Tupper Lake, NY  
5:30 P.M. on December 6, 2016

Massena Town Hall Room # 27  
60 Main Street  
Massena, NY  
5:30 P.M. on December 7, 2016

MORE

Copies of the Voluntary Stewardship Plan can be requested from Mr. Hanss by email at: [fhanss@vi.potsdam.ny.us](mailto:fhanss@vi.potsdam.ny.us) or (315) 265-1670. Written comments on the Voluntary Stewardship Plan will be accepted until 4:00 P.M. on December 20, 2016.

The preparation of the Voluntary Stewardship Plan was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

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# **Raquette River Blueway Trail**

## **Public Information Meeting On the Draft Voluntary Stewardship Plan C00713**

### **Agenda**

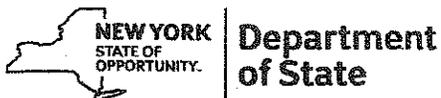
1. Introductions
2. Overview of the Raquette River Blueway Trail
3. Introduction to the Draft Voluntary Stewardship Plan
4. Questions and Answers
5. Wrap-up

The preparation of the Voluntary Stewardship Plan was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



**Raquette River Blueway Trail  
Draft Voluntary Stewardship Plan  
C00713  
November 2016**

**The preparation of the Voluntary Stewardship Plan was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.**



**Raquette River Blueway Trail  
Draft Voluntary Stewardship Plan**

Please direct written comments to:

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(315) 265-1670

Comments may be submitted until 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

## **Raquette River Blueway Trail Draft Voluntary Stewardship Plan**

### **Contents:**

Section 1: Overview of the Raquette River Blueway Trail and Introduction to the Voluntary Stewardship Plan

Section 2: Plan Development Process

Section 3: Current Stewardship Situation – Inventory of Conditions and Examples of Actions

Section 4: Stewardship Goals

Section 5: Organizational Capacity and Recommendations

Section 6: Key Contacts

Section 7: Appendices – Resources by Stewardship Issue and Section of the Raquette River, Plus Other pertinent Materials

# **RAQUETTE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL (RRBT) VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)**

## **SECTION 1: OVERVIEW OF RRBT & INTRODUCTION TO VSP Revised Draft as of November 2016**

### **BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RAQUETTE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL (RRBT)**

The 174-mile long Raquette River, which flows north from its source at Blue Mountain Lake inside the Adirondack Park through the St. Lawrence River Valley to the St. Lawrence River, connects a series of communities in Hamilton, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties linked by the river and the highways and roads on either or both sides of the river.

In April 2010 an advisory committee made up of leaders representing municipalities, government agencies, businesses and organizations in the river corridor released “A Raquette River Corridor Blueway Trail Plan” developed with the help of Peter J. Smith & Company, Inc. The document was prepared for the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

This overall Raquette River Blueway Trail (RRBT) Plan serves, in part, as a framework for voluntary regional cooperation. A ‘blueway,’ as defined in the plan, is a small boat and paddling route that combines recreation and environmental awareness and allows users to travel to designated stops along the way for rest, overnight stays and enjoyment of land-based attractions in the vicinity. Five strategies outlined in the RRBT Plan include promoting stewardship of the river. Implementation was imagined to be a range of projects as well as corridor-wide initiatives for involving riverside communities, public and private sector owners/managers of land in the river corridor as well as the many organizations and individuals who share responsibilities.

‘River Stewardship’ was envisioned to be a corridor-wide initiative accomplished through individuals, groups and businesses who adopt sections of the river and work cooperatively with municipalities and other land controlling/managing organizations (e.g., Brookfield Renewable Energy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, etc.). Initial ideas about how such an “organization” might function are outlined on page 48 of the RRBT Plan.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)**

In 2010, as part of a grant awarded through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund / Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, a Voluntary Stewardship Plan (VSP) for the 174-mile long river corridor was begun. During the last four years the time, materials and other resources needed to collaboratively develop the VSP have been contributed by municipalities, businesses, organizations and interested citizens. The VSP includes seven sections:

- Overview of RRBT and Introduction to VSP;
- Plan Development Process;
- Current Situation – Inventory of Conditions and Examples of Actions;
- Stewardship Goals;
- Organizational Capacity & Recommendations;
- Key Contacts; and

- Appendices – Resources by Stewardship Issue and by Section of River Plus Other Pertinent Materials.

**Priority Stewardship Issues:** Six priority stewardship issues emerged from direction in the founding RRBT Plan, ongoing guidance by the RRBT Advisory Committee and advice from individuals who are interested and involved in stewardship activities in the river corridor. The issues, as defined below, provided the basis for assessing the current situation, developing goals, judging organizational capacity, identifying contacts and gathering resources.

- **Invasive species**—Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species change not only the way natural systems look but also the way they function. Once established, invasive species negatively impact recreation, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industry, human health and the environment. Due to the lack of natural controls and high reproductive ability, invasive species can quickly become widespread.
- **Water quality**—Water quality is fundamental for good river health, sustaining ecological processes that support native fish populations, vegetation, wetlands and birdlife. Similarly, many human uses depend on water that is drinkable, fishable, swimmable and clean for other recreation, cultural and spiritual pursuits. Water quality is defined by chemical purity, ecosystem health and water ethics. Associated issues and threats come from many sources, including naturally occurring processes as well as contamination from a variety of discernable point and diffuse non-point sources of pollution.
- **Signage & warnings**—A variety of signage and warnings are needed along the river and associated roadways for directional, interpretive and safety purposes. Signage and warnings range from being non-existent to out-of-date to oversigned. And there is a general lack of signage and related materials about the Raquette River as a blueway trail or recreation corridor.
- **Trails & facilities**—While encouraging use of the river for outdoor recreation and other purposes steps need to be taken to protect the environment and natural settings while making areas more accessible through existing trails and facilities (e.g., lean-tos, etc.) as well as new ones on the mix of public and private lands in the river corridor. A variety of agencies, organizations and individuals have relevant manuals and guidelines as well as best practices for developing and maintaining trails and facilities for multiple and authorized uses.
- **Stewardship ethic**—Caring for the river includes being good stewards through responsible planning and management of resources. Good stewardship is reflected in personal conduct and business practices. Encouraging a stewardship ethic goes hand-in-hand with promoting the river for recreation and other purposes and with using associated roadways, trails and facilities to access and enjoy the river. Stewardship ethics respect property rights and encourage voluntary actions by those who use the resources and share responsibility for them.
- **Education & outreach**—Stewardship of the 174-mile long river from Blue Mountain Lake to Akwesasne must be underpinned by education and outreach to encourage cooperation and interaction among the municipalities and other partners in the river corridor. Opportunities exist to learn from each other, to work across boundaries and to raise public awareness from the mountain to the valley.

**Regional Context:** The larger regional area within which the Raquette River exists was taken into account during the development of the VSP in a number of ways, as follows.

- Although the VSP focuses on the river corridor and communities along it, information about invasive species, water quality and other common concerns was gleaned from others involved in larger Raquette River and St. Lawrence River watershed efforts.
- Since the Raquette River begins its journey high in the Adirondacks and flows through the St. Lawrence River valley on its way to the St. Lawrence River, the VSP was informed by the work of others across the landscape inside and outside the Adirondack Park.
- Existence of Scenic Byways in the region offered insights and direction on signage and more.

## RRBT VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)

### SECTION 2: PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Revised Draft as of November 2016

The focus of the VSP is on-ground and in-community stewardship activities achievable and manageable by volunteers (e.g., groups, clubs, individuals, etc.) working in conjunction with municipalities, government agencies, corporations and others owning and/or managing resources in the river corridor. Through the VSP partners seek to increase collaboration on river-related stewardship activities through a network of individual stewards and stewardship groups working in places on and along the river.

In May 2011, during a networking meeting at The Wild Center, participants were introduced to the VSP process and explored opportunities to tackle stewardship issues across jurisdictions and ownership boundaries. During the plan proposal and development processes participants consistently identified the need for more collaboration among people who have:

- Responsibilities for managing public and private places in the river corridor (e.g., municipalities, private landowners, government agencies, friends groups, colleges and universities, etc.);
- Varying interests (e.g., fishing, hunting, paddling, motor boating, hiking, etc.); and
- Knowledge of land and/or water stewardship practices (e.g., soil and water conservation, invasive species, trail and recreation management, etc.).

#### **STEPS TAKEN & PEOPLE INVOLVED**

After the scope of work for the VSP was approved by the NYS Department of State a number of steps unfolded during a 2-year time period with and through the Raquette River Advisory Committee which guides implementation of “A Raquette River Corridor Blueway Trail Plan” dated April 2010.

During 2012 a project team of the Raquette River Advisory Committee was formed to focus on the development of the VSP, originally co-chaired by Ruth McWilliams and Dan Parker. It consisted of the following individuals who were asked to provide expertise and contacts within their respective communities of place (e.g., municipalities, sections of river, etc.), communities of interest (e.g., invasive species, water quality, etc.) and/or communities of practice (e.g., trail maintenance, forestry, etc.).

- Ruth McWilliams (Catamount Lodge & Forest LLC plus Town of Colton)
- Dan Parker (St. Lawrence County Legislator)
- Ben Geiger (Massawepie Boy Scout Camp)
- Jen Kretser (The Wild Center)
- John Kurimski (Brookfield Renewable Energy)
- Lawrence Lee (Piercefield resident)
- Larry Boeye (Town of Piercefield)
- Mike Prescott (Northern Forest Canoe Trail)
- David Winchell (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation / Region 5)
- Pat Whalen (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation / Region 6)
- Bill Dashnaw (St. Lawrence County multi-trail system / interim)
- Mary Jane Watson (RRBT / grant administration)
- Fred Hanss (RRBT / coordination)
- Nicole Cline (RRBT / summer intern)

Project team members met several times as a group throughout 2012. Then in July 2012, assisted by a summer intern with the Village of Potsdam, they held public information meetings in three communities along the Raquette River to introduce participants to the overall RRBT Plan, to provide an overview of the VSP, to gather additional information from stakeholders about stewardship issues and activities already underway and to identify gaps. Sessions were held in Colton on July 9, Massena on July 11 and Long Lake on July 12. In August 2012, during Raquette River Awareness Week, team members also learned firsthand about stewardship issues by participating in a new trail opening, helping with cleanup activities and attending other events in the river corridor. Finally, in September 2012 the team finalized the outline for the VSP, highlighting six stewardship issues—Invasive Species; Water Quality; Signage & Warnings; Trails & Facilities; Stewardship Ethic; and Education & Outreach.

During 2013 individual project team members reached out to other stakeholders working on specific issues (e.g., invasive species) and larger watershed-based efforts including the St. Lawrence River Watershed Project (now Partnership) organized by Soil & Water Conservation Districts including Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties. They also worked on other trail and signage improvement projects; and attended a number of meetings organized and held by others.

In 2014 project team members helped with the development of a new RRBT website, making sure to it would facilitate collaboration about stewardship issues and actions in the river corridor. The VSP also was a major focus of the networking meeting held at The Wild Center in May 2014 when participants were updated on the status of the VSP and heard about strategic partnerships underway related to watershed-scale projects, invasive species plus trail and sign improvements. Meeting attendees got a sneak peak at the new website and its functionality for stewardship, providing feedback on its utility for registering activities and enhancing collaboration.

Following the networking meeting an initial list of key contacts working on stewardship activities in the river corridor was developed (see Section 6). Also the seven sections of the VSP were drafted for review by the RRBT Advisory Committee.

During November 2014 individuals involved in stewardship, as previously identified through meetings and other means during development of the VSP, were asked to participate in an online Survey Monkey process. Although the number of people answering questions varied there were about 60 to 70 responses to most questions with the largest number responding to question 1 about awareness of stewardship activities being undertaken to address the six stewardship issues. Insights from the Survey Monkey process have been incorporated into the VSP, where appropriate.

## RRBT VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)

### SECTION 3: CURRENT STEWARDSHIP SITUATION – INVENTORY OF CONDITIONS & EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS

Revised Draft as of November 2016

In recent years as Raquette River partners—citizens, local government representatives, business owners, agency officials and others—have talked about and researched stewardship concerns and opportunities about the following six priority stewardship issues: Invasive Species, Water Quality, Signage & Warnings, Trails & Facilities, Stewardship Ethic and Education & Outreach. Regional-level understanding is complemented by local knowledge from on-ground and in-community work. Conditions relevant to the six issues have been revealed through boating and hiking, workdays on and along the river, public information meetings, presentations at annual networking meetings and other events plus studies by universities, government agencies, municipalities and other partners. More recently insights about stewardship activities were gleaned through an online Survey Monkey process focusing on the six stewardship issues. Actions taken within the last few years are given as examples to raise awareness of the potential for river communities and partners to individually and collectively address identified stewardship issues.

#### **INVASIVE SPECIES**

Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species change not only the way natural systems look but also the way systems function. Once established, invasive species negatively impact recreation, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industry, human health and the environment. Due to the lack of natural controls and high reproductive ability, invasive species can quickly become widespread.

#### **Inventory of Conditions**

- Raquette River corridor falls within two of the eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) created by the State of New York to help prevent or minimize the harm caused by invasive species—Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership (SLELO) have listed the following invasive species in the region which are known to be present in the Raquette River corridor through localized surveys, studies and observations:
  - ✓ Species of concern in the APIPP region include: common reed grass, Eurasian watermilfoil, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, water chestnut, wild parsnip and zebra mussel.
  - ✓ Target and watch-list species in the SLELO region include: giant hogweed, purple loosestrife, water chestnut, Japanese knotweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, Didymo (rock snot), Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer.
- Local surveys and studies—One notable effort involves Norwood Lake where Eurasian and variable leaf milfoil was discovered by St. Lawrence University researchers in 2012. Subsequently Clarkson University determined in 2013 that if left unchecked the milfoil could cover 80% of the lake in 10 years affecting boating, fishing, swimming and property values.

#### **Examples of Actions**

- Regulations—NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Regulations on Aquatic Invasive Species issued June 5, 2014 require boaters to clean and drain boats prior to launching at or leaving from DEC lands, several of which are along the Raquette River.

- Controlling invasives species / Eurasian and variable leaf milfoil—Guided by university research begun in 2012 the Norwood Lake Association and Village of Norwood are working with Paul Smith's College through its Adirondack Watershed Institute to control the milfoil through dive teams.
- Controlling invasive species / Japanese knotweed—Town of Colton officials attended a workshop on Japanese knotweed, then supported an employee becoming certified, doing a pilot project and surveying plants in bloom during 2014 as basis for an expanded program in 2015.
- Lake Steward Program—Since 2008 the Long Lake Association has had seasonal crews inspecting watercraft at public boat launches; and now the program, managed by Paul Smith's College with federal funding support, also assists APIPP with mapping and classifying of lakes for invasive species. Similar efforts are underway through the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation.
- Education—Variety of efforts underway include: Northern Forest Canoe Trail educating paddlers about aquatic invasives and the need to clean, drain and dry boats; Youth Conservation Corps doing boat launch education during the summer; and St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council helping communities develop plans to deal with the emerald ash borer.
- Policies—Raquette River partners have policy on installing invasive species disposal box at every boating facility they assist in developing along the Raquette River Blueway Trail.

## **WATER QUALITY**

Water quality is fundamental for good river health, sustaining ecological processes that support native fish populations, vegetation, wetlands and birdlife. Similarly, many human uses depend on water that is drinkable, fishable, swimmable and clean for other recreation, cultural and spiritual pursuits. Water quality is defined by chemical purity, ecosystem health and water ethics. Associated issues and threats come from many sources, including naturally occurring processes as well as contamination from a variety of discernable point and diffuse non-point sources of pollution.

### **Inventory of Conditions**

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts—Districts assist landowners and others in a variety of ways including long-term lake/stream water monitoring, stormwater projects and erosion and sediment control projects. Now eight county organizations—Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, and St Lawrence Counties—have joined together through the St. Lawrence River Watershed Partnership to provide a larger watershed context and work regionally to encourage watershed partnerships and the implementation of conservation projects that promote, enhance and protect natural resources and water quality.
- St. Lawrence River at Massena Area of Concern (includes portion of the Raquette River as well as the Grasse and St. Regis Rivers)—Three governmental agency groupings share jurisdictional responsibilities for the Remedial Action Plan Area of Concern (AOC) including the United States, Canada and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe at Akwesasne. The primary use impairment in the Massena AOC is fish consumption restrictions.
- Tributary research—Through a "Partnership to Examine Condition of Regional Lakes and their Influence on Tributaries of the St. Lawrence River" researchers at St. Lawrence University found that study lakes on the Raquette River (Tupper, Carry Falls, Higley Flow and Norwood) were not sources of polluting chemicals to tributary rivers with all lakes having sufficient buffering capacity to offset acidic input, indicating however two (Tupper and Carry Falls) had marginally low pH levels.
- Limnology research—Researchers and students at Clarkson University conduct studies of inland waters, focusing on the Laurentian Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystems.

This includes improving underwater sensor technology and installing sensors in the Hudson and St. Lawrence rivers as part of the River and Estuary Observatory Network to provide real-time monitoring of water quality, including particle size and location, water velocity, oxygen content and dozens of other environmental indicators. Test sensor sites in Hannawa Falls and Higley Flow are on the Raquette River.

- Road salt pollution—Research and stakeholder meetings are underway by the Adirondack Watershed Institute with others to understand the effects of road salt application rates on soil fertility and water quality and to develop practical information to aid agencies and municipalities in selecting management practices that reduce the impacts of road salt on forest and water resources.

### **Examples of Actions**

- Fish advisories by Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe—Fish Advisory Project, begun in 2012 with grants from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in collaboration with the NYS Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation, has produced pamphlet titled "Akwesasne Family Guide to Eating Locally-Caught Fish," indicating fish caught in the Raquette River can be eaten but with advice for families on types of fish and portions to eat (available online and in hard copy).
- Fish advisories by NYS Department of Health—Brochures on mercury contamination of fish in both the Adirondack Region and the St. Lawrence Valley Region.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) by the St. Lawrence Water Quality Coordinating Council / Environmental Management Council—BMPs for watershed conservation are directed to residential and agricultural users.

### **SIGNAGE & WARNINGS**

A variety of signage and warnings are needed along the river and associated roadways for directional, interpretive and safety purposes. Signage and warnings range from being non-existent to out-of-date to oversigned. And there is a general lack of signage and related materials about the Raquette River as a blueway trail or recreation corridor.

### **Inventory of Conditions**

- 'Windshield' surveys—While hiking, boating and driving partners have identified hazards and signage issues on trails, in parking areas, at put-ins and take-outs, along portages and at other areas all along the river; insights have resulted in some needed improvements and revisions to brochures with maps.
- Raquette River Advisory Council—Signatories to Brookfield Renewable Energy's licensing agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission monitor and report conditions to Brookfield and other signatories for action and possible funding support through the Raquette River Fund.
- Public reporting—During public outreach/information meetings specific signage concerns have been recorded and shared with landowners and managers.

### **Examples of Actions**

- Prototype kiosk for river corridor—Town of Colton, with financial support from the Raquette River Fund, collaborated with the NYS DEC and other river partners on the design and installation of a prototype kiosk for the entire river corridor.
- Interpretive signs—New signs have been installed in Postwood Park in Hannawa Falls and Ives Park in Potsdam using signs along the Red Sandstone Trail as the example. Some of the projects have been done by boy scouts working with municipal officials.
- Directional and portage signs—New directional signs have been installed for fishing access in Lions Fall Island Park in Potsdam and portage signs along the river in Potsdam.

- Boat launch signs—A variety of efforts include Help Protect Loons (for sale by the Biodiversity Research Institute’s Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation), Leave No Trace (produced by Brookfield Renewable Energy for its sites) and others by Soil & Water Conservation Districts, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and The Nature Conservancy.
- Signage guidance—Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area partners have reviewed and incorporated signage guidelines in the management agreement updated during 2013/14.

## **TRAILS & FACILITIES**

While encouraging use of the river for outdoor recreation and other purposes steps need to be taken to protect the environment and natural settings while making areas more accessible through existing trails and facilities as well as new ones on the mix of public and private lands in the river corridor. A variety of agencies, organizations and individuals have relevant manuals and guidelines as well as best practices for developing and maintaining trails and facilities for multiple and authorized uses.

### **Inventory of Conditions**

- Trail reports and observations—Members of the Adirondack Mountain Club, through chapters like the Laurentian Chapter and Cold River Chapter, adopt trails to maintain and provide annual reports and regular observations to regional DEC foresters to assist them in determining where more intensive trail projects are required. Also they take responsibility through Adopt a Lean-to Program as well as Adopt a Wildland inside the Adirondack Park.
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail stewards—Trail Maintainers adopt a segment to be visited at least twice during the paddling season to do upkeep and maintenance along the international water trail serving four states and a province through flat water, swift water and whitewater on a range of rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. An online Trail Maintainer Map provides contact information with Mike Prescott and Raquette River Outfitters maintaining segments of the Raquette River.
- NYS boat launch site information—Locations of state-owned sites by county are available on the NYS DEC website, including information about location, type of launch, parking, invasive species and accessible features.
- Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area partners—In 2014 the twenty-four year old management plan was updated, resulting in a more complete understanding of conditions on public and private lands in the Recreation Area and a new agreement among the partners. A process for updating and informing partners to the agreement was developed. The agreement is available on the Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter website.

### **Examples of Actions**

- Seasonal and annual workdays—In the spring each year Northern Forest Canoe Trail members with help from stewardship interns clean out brush, install signs, build steps and do more at Buttermilk Falls in Long Lake; and annually in October the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club organizes work weekends to improve trails along the Stone Valley section of the river in accordance with Brookfield Renewable Energy’s land use plan.
- New river access points—New access road at Carry Falls Reservoir was created by Catamount Lodge & Forest LLC in collaboration with Brookfield Renewable Energy; and new access road with parking just above Moody Falls was created by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation with help from the Adirondack Mountain Club members.
- New/improved trails—In 2012 Clarkson University dedicated its new Munter Trails, a two-mile trail system in the university’s master plan along the Raquette River near Clarkson’s canoe house with plans to connect it with downtown Potsdam. Also the communities of

Blue Mountain, Long Lake and Tupper Lake, involved with the 90 Miler Blueway Trail Strategy, have completed a variety of trail projects.

- New boat/canoe launches—Variety of new facilities include: canoe dock at the Oxbow Overlook at The Wild Center in Tupper Lake opened in 2012; boat launch at Long Lake improved by NYS DEC that has designated accessible parking with accessible privy and path to loading dock; and newly-constructed landing at north tip of Sugar Island by an Eagle Scout candidate done as a community service project.
- Riverside park improvements—Village of Potsdam, with grant funding, constructed a canoe portage trail plus designed and constructed a new riverwalk with a handicap accessible canoe/kayak launch in Ives Park.
- Higley Flow State Park improvements—With financial and other help from its Friends group, park officials constructed an all-season facility which now functions as an educational center in summer and a warming hut in winter (with sheltered porch, assembly room and restrooms).
- Waterfront access improvement plans—Through grant funding four municipalities—Town of Piercefield, Village of Norwood, Town of Norfolk and Village of Massena— developed plans for making improvements at priority areas within each of the communities.
- Updated/new maps—Brookfield Renewable Energy updated its “Raquette River Recreation Corridor” brochure with map showing and describing recreation sites from Piercefield to Raymondville; and the Raquette River partners have produced a prototype paddler’s map for a section of the Raquette River from Potsdam to Norwood called the Log Driver’s Trail.
- New mountain bike trails—St. Lawrence Mountain Bike Association uses trail building principles of The International Mountain Bike Association while developing new trails on county and state forest lands and elsewhere.
- New canopy walk—The Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks in Tupper Lake (known as The Wild Center) is building a “Wild Walk” so people can view the surrounding landscape at treetop level. The grand opening for the 850-foot long elevated walkway is July 4th, 2015.

### **STEWARDSHIP ETHIC**

Caring for the river includes being good stewards through responsible planning and management of resources. Good stewardship is reflected in personal conduct and business practices. Encouraging a stewardship ethic goes hand-in-hand with promoting the river for recreation and other purposes and with using associated roadways, trails and facilities to access and enjoy the river. Stewardship ethics respect property rights and encourage voluntary actions by those who use the resources and share responsibility for them.

### **Inventory of Conditions**

- Outdoor ethics training—Adirondack Mountain Club, which embraces the ‘Leave No Trace’ principles, is one of seven national providers of Leave No Trace Master Educator Courses and also offers Trainer Courses and Awareness Workshops. Courses also are provided by the SUNY Potsdam Wilderness Education Minor.
- Network of volunteer stewards—Several agencies, organizations, businesses and municipalities owning/managing land in the river corridor have enlisted the help of volunteer stewards, including the NYS DEC through the Adirondack Mountain Club and Friends groups (e.g., Friends of Mt. Arab), Brookfield Renewable Energy with the Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter and Higley Flow State Park with its Friends group.
- Transparency—Stewardship efforts are undermined by the lack of communication about issues and actions being taken, in part due to the lack of a website and other web-based communication to share information about responsible planning and progress underway. The new Raquette River Blueway Trail website is being designed to include stewardship

and will rely on volunteers and others to provide information about the six stewardship issues and associated actions being taken.

### **Examples of Actions**

- Promotion of 'Leave No Trace' outdoor ethics—Raquette River partners have adopted Leave No Trace principles to guide outdoor activities and minimize impacts by those enjoying all the river has to offer from the frontcountry (e.g., municipal parks and trails) to the backcountry (e.g., wilderness areas), including Brookfield Renewable Energy and the NYS DEC which post the principles at their respective recreation sites. The principles also are promoted by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe through work of the Historic Preservation Officer with the youth group, by the Akwesasne Canoe and Kayak Club and by the paddling program of Akwesasne Child and Family Services.
- Enlisting of municipal volunteers—Town of Colton, through its Tourism and Beautification Committee, annually organizes volunteers to help its Department of Public Works with parks, trails and planted areas. An appointed coordinator chairs the committee; and a new volunteer steward is leading efforts to improve the town's once-neglected John Stone Memorial Nature Trail through trash cleanups and improvements to trails, overlooks and water crossings. The committee follows the Leave No Trace principles and promotes them through two information centers in town staffed by volunteers during the summer.
- Neighbors helping neighbors—Individuals, organizations and businesses including Raquette River Outfitters in Tupper Lake take part in river sweeps and trail clean-ups in the spring, during Raquette River Awareness Week and at other times of the year.

### **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

Stewardship of the 174-mile long river from Blue Mountain Lake to Akwesasne must be underpinned by education and outreach to encourage cooperation and interaction among the municipalities and other partners in the river corridor. Opportunities exist to learn from each other, work across boundaries and raise public awareness from the mountain to the valley.

### **Inventory of Conditions**

- Access to public information—Lack of web-based access to information about stewardship issues and actions associated with the Raquette River Corridor Blueway Trail Plan impedes education and outreach efforts.
- Educational programming—Educational efforts tend to be localized around specific communities, sections of the river and particular issues.
- Intergenerational sharing—Opportunities are missed to share local knowledge and methods and to develop skills needed to deal with invasive species and other stewardship issues.
- Jurisdictional divides—Large number of jurisdictional boundaries in the river corridor impedes sharing inside and outside the Adirondack Park and across the 'Blue Line,' across public and private lands, and across levels of government (State, county, town, village).
- Communication with seasonal as well as year-round residents—Different methods are needed to reach seasonal residents and vacationers (e.g., door tags) versus others in Long Lake who receive information from the Long Lake Association.

### **Examples of Actions**

- Face-to-face river coordination meetings—Periodic meetings of the advisory committee and annual networking meetings at The Wild Center support education and outreach among active partners and others whose interest has been sparked through projects.
- Meetings and classes—Conservation districts provide many opportunities for landowners, students and adults, lake associations and others to learn about natural resources. The Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District has a Conservation Educator on staff.

- Guided trips—Guided hikes given by members of the Adirondack Mountain Club introduce and familiarize people with trails and other areas throughout the year. And the Northern Forest Canoe Trail engages youth from 10-14 years of age through five-day Northern Forest Explorer paddling trips.
- Awareness raising—Starting in 2009 Raquette River Awareness Weeks have been held to build public understanding about the river corridor and enlist volunteers to help with stewardship activities when seasonal residents as well as visitors are in the area for the summer; also presentations about the river are featured at The Wild Center in Tupper Lake. Nature Up North, a community-based organization whose mission is to foster a deeper sense of appreciation for and connection to the North Country environment, uses technology to encourage and enhance outdoor experiential learning.
- Raquette River Information Center—Town of Colton operates and staffs a Raquette River Information Center during the extended summer season when the population in the area swells with seasonal residents and visitors. Also the town has developed an information tent which is used periodically for whitewater and other summer events.
- Raquette River Blueway Trail website—With grant support the river partners have contracted with Quality Production to design a new website with map functionality, allowing stewardship issues and actions to be registered and shared.

# RRBT VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)

## SECTION 4: STEWARDSHIP GOALS Revised Draft as of November 2016

Goals for each of the six stewardship issues build upon existing efforts and respond to concerns heard from the public during outreach sessions, from Raquette River partners and from others in recent years. The goals are broad in scope and indicate collective intentions.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES**

Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species change not only the way natural systems look but also the way they function. Once established, invasive species negatively impact recreation, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, industry, human health and the environment. Due to the lack of natural controls and high reproductive ability, invasive species can quickly become widespread.

#### **Goals**

- Stay informed about regional programs to detect and eradicate invasive species and share information with Raquette River partners
- Report presence of invasive species to respective regional PRISM coordinators
- Share information with other Raquette River partners about efforts to manage and hopefully eradicate existing invasive species and to prevent introductions of new ones

### **WATER QUALITY**

Water quality is fundamental for good river health, sustaining ecological processes that support native fish populations, vegetation, wetlands and birdlife. Similarly, many human uses depend on water that is drinkable, fishable, swimmable and clean for other recreation, cultural and spiritual pursuits. Water quality is defined by chemical purity, ecosystem health and water ethics. Associated issues and threats come from many sources, including naturally occurring processes as well as contamination from a variety of discernable point and diffuse non-point sources of pollution.

#### **Goals**

- Organize and encourage river sweeps and land clean-up activities at least once a year in major sections of the river corridor
- Increase interactions with the Saint Lawrence River Watershed Partnership to stay informed about basin-wide efforts and opportunities for mutually beneficial projects
- Encourage partner and citizen involvement in water quality monitoring activities by universities, government agencies and other organizations

### **SIGNAGE & WARNINGS**

A variety of signage and warnings are needed along the river and associated roadways for directional, interpretive and safety purposes. Signage and warnings range from being non-existent to out-of-date to oversigned. And there is a general lack of signage and related materials about the Raquette River as a blueway trail or recreation corridor.

#### **Goals**

- Install series of Raquette River kiosks along major roadways in the river corridor, providing a map of the blueway trail plus local access points to the river, information sources and related history (plus QR codes for smart phones)
- Share signage policies in hopes of creating more unity across ownership boundaries

- Develop way for signage and warning related issues to be reported to pertinent landowners/managers

### **TRAILS & FACILITIES**

While encouraging use of the river for outdoor recreation and other purposes steps need to be taken to protect the environment and natural settings while making areas more accessible through existing trails and facilities (e.g., lean-tos, etc.) as well as new ones on the mix of public and private lands in the river corridor. A variety of agencies, organizations and individuals have relevant manuals and guidelines as well as best practices for developing and maintaining trails and facilities for multiple and authorized uses.

#### **Goals**

- Continue to work with the NYS DEC and others toward more accessible trails and facilities for people of all ages and abilities
- Share plans and best management practices for improving trails (including portages) and facilities in the river corridor
- Find and support more trail stewards in the river corridor (including on lands owned by Brookfield Renewable Energy) and encourage the sharing of resources and coordination of actions across boundaries and jurisdictions

### **STEWARDSHIP ETHIC**

Caring for the river includes being good stewards through responsible planning and management of resources. Good stewardship is reflected in personal conduct and business practices. Encouraging a stewardship ethic goes hand-in-hand with promoting the river for recreation and other purposes and with using associated roadways, trails and facilities to access and enjoy the river. Stewardship ethics respect property rights and encourage voluntary actions by those who use the resources and share responsibility for them.

#### **Goals**

- Increase awareness of Leave No Trace principles among river partners, municipal staff, volunteer stewards and others who care for and use the blueway trail
- Use annual awareness weeks and/or workdays to encourage neighbors to help neighbors in accomplishing stewardship projects
- Share the VSP widely using the new website and other means

### **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

Stewardship of the 174-mile long river from Blue Mountain Lake to Akwesasne must be underpinned by education and outreach to encourage cooperation and interaction among the municipalities and other partners in the river corridor. Opportunities exist to learn from each other, to work across boundaries and to raise public awareness from the mountain to the valley.

#### **Goals**

- Use web-based tools including Survey Monkey and the new website to regularly share stewardship activities and progress in implementing the trail plan with river partners and the general public
- In some manner include stewardship in each annual networking meeting for updating and coordinating purposes, perhaps leading up to annual awareness week activities
- Develop new rack card/hang tag about the RRBT for river communities to use locally and for other purposes, providing context for the Voluntary Stewardship Plan and other plan implementation projects

# RRBT VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)

## SECTION 5: ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY & RECOMMENDATIONS Revised Draft as of November 2016

The VSP spotlights on-ground and in-community stewardship of natural resources in the river corridor as well as associated ways in which humans engage through signs, warnings, trails, facilities and more. The acknowledged priority stewardship issues are dynamic and systemic, making collaboration and collaborative learning essential features of the VSP. Greater collaboration among the large and disparate network of municipalities, landowners and homeowners, organizations, groups, businesses, colleges, agencies and others can be achieved through more knowledge about the partners, greater respect for and dialogue about what each is doing, better understanding of specific issues and system-based concerns, integration of scientific and traditional/local knowledge and real improvements upon which to see and measure progress and generate excitement.

### ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Through the development of the VSP a number of strengths and challenges related to the ability of the partners to foster, undertake or sustain voluntary and collaborative action to address priority issues in the river corridor have been revealed. Examples of strengths and challenges of the voluntary network of stewards are given below by key aspects of organizational capacity.

**Leadership capacity:** (ability to inspire, prioritize, make decisions, provide direction, innovate)

Strength—The network of partners collectively has a wide range of responsibilities with the potential to motivate and support the on-ground and in-community action needed to address priority issues over time.

Challenge—Many different organizational priorities and decision processes exist, some of which are not known or understood.

**Adaptive capacity:** (ability to monitor, assess, respond)

Strength—Many partners have responsibilities and resources needed to monitor and assess conditions in the river corridor and track progress within defined geographic areas or issues.

Challenge—Knowledge of local and systemic issues as the river flows from inside the Adirondack Park to the St. Lawrence River is not widely shared and response through on-ground and in-community action is short-term or delayed without financial and other resources being available.

**Management capacity:** (ability to ensure effective and efficient use of resources)

Strength—Stewards in the river corridor have varying roles and responsibilities created through a variety of arrangements with municipalities, landowners, universities, agencies and others, both inside and outside the Adirondack Park.

Challenge—Partner roles and responsibilities are not well understood, expertise is widely distributed and training is limited, making it difficult to share knowledge and best practices in timely and efficient ways.

**Operational capacity:** (ability to implement key organizational and programmatic functions)

Strength—The Raquette River Advisory Committee is a standing body that serves as the primary forum for ongoing communication about implementation of the Raquette River Corridor Blueway Trail Plan through projects and initiatives (including river stewardship).

Challenge—The Advisory Committee does not include or represent many in the river corridor doing stewardship work both inside and outside the Adirondack Park.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The dimensions of organizational capacity outlined above point to the need for a more dynamic, ongoing approach to stewardship in the river corridor. Voluntary approaches have strengths and weaknesses; and the following recommendations associated with the organizational capacity of the voluntary stewardship network build upon and support individual, joint and collective actions in the river corridor.

### Build relationships among stewards

- Use annual networking meetings of the Raquette River Advisory Committee to understand various roles and responsibilities of stewards, report progress and collaboratively plan next steps from a river corridor perspective
- Support ongoing virtual or collaborative e-learning through web-based approaches

### Bolster the knowledge and technical expertise of stewards

- Identify and share the science and best practices associated with each priority issue
- Determine needs for additional guidance, technical assistance, training and resources for collaborative action addressing priority issues

### Create institutional linkages to support ongoing stewardship activities

- Establish a standing Voluntary Stewardship Group within the Advisory Group composed of key stewards in the river corridor
- Strengthen relationships with more system-level groups including both PRISMs (APIPP and SLELO) and the St. Lawrence River Watershed Partnership (SLRwP) as well as the Raquette River Advisory Council (RRAC)

## RRBT VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)

### SECTION 6: KEY CONTACTS Revised Draft as of November 2016

The following key contacts are located in communities along the Raquette River corridor, listed from the southern to the northern end of the north-flowing river. They include town and village officials plus others within the public and private sectors concerned about sections of the river, specific water bodies, trails or points of access to the river and other places. Additional information will be provided on the new website as they confirm how they wish to be contacted for stewardship purposes. As others are identified they also will be added to the website.

#### **Town of Indian Lake (including Blue Mountain Lake and Raquette Lake)**

Kenneth (Ken) Hawks—Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

#### **Town of Long Lake**

Mike Prescott—Sections of Northern Forest Canoe Trail in/near Long Lake (Buttermilk Falls)

Alexandra (Alex) Roalsvig—Town of Long Lake (parks, recreation and tourism)

Jackie Mallery—Long Lake Association

Barbara Taylor—Lake Lake Association (lake steward coordination)

#### **Town and Village of Tupper Lake**

Rob Frenette and Anne Fleck—Raquette River Outfitters (spring cleanups, rentals, tours, etc.)

Jen Kretser—The Wild Center (programs, etc.)

Dave McMahon—Tupper Lake Rod and Gun Club (park, ice fishing derby, etc.)

#### **Town of Piercefield (including hamlets of Childwold and Conifer)**

Richard Bentley—Friends of Mt. Arab (fire tower)

Larry Boyeye—Piercefield Town Council (e.g., beach, access improvements, etc.)

#### **Town of Colton (including hamlets of South Colton and Colton)**

Dennis Bulger—Town Supervisor

Mary Long—Racquette Valley Fish & Game Club

Ruth McWilliams—Catamount Lodge & Forest plus town Tourism & Beautification Committee

Henry Sieg—Higley Flow State Park (park supervisor)

Mark Simon—Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (ADK Laurentian Chapter steward)

Linden (Lin) Snyder—Higley Association

#### **Town of Pierrepont (including hamlet of Hannawa Falls)**

John Omohundro—Red Sandstone Trail (ADK Laurentian Chapter steward)

Blaire Madore—Red Sandstone Trail (ADK Laurentian Chapter steward)

#### **Town of Potsdam, Village of Potsdam & Village of Norwood**

Rich Burns—Village of Potsdam (local waterfront revitalization)

Fred Hanss—Village of Potsdam (planning & development; downtown & waterfront revitalization) Association

Reinhold j. Tischler, Mayor Village of Potsdam

Timothy Levison, Mayor, Village of Norwood

#### **Town of Norfolk**

Charles Pernice—Town Supervisor

**Town and Village of Massena**

Joe Gray—Town Supervisor

Tim Currier—Village of Massena Mayor

**Akwesasne**

Tony David—Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (water resources)

Sue Ellen Herne—Akwesasne Cultural Center

Arnold Printup—Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (historic preservation)

The following organizations also have key individuals directing and/or doing pertinent stewardship work.

**American Whitewater**

Phil LaMarche—local paddler / Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area

**Brookfield Renewable Energy**

Ian Borlung—Operations / Compliance

Jason Zehr—Land Use

**Northern Forest Canoe Trail**

Walter Opuszynski—Trail Director

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

David (Dave) Winchell—Region 5 (Eastern Adirondacks / citizen participation)

**Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs)**

Brendan Quirion—Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

Rob Williams—St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) PRISM

**Paul Smith's College / Adirondack Watershed Institute**

Jackie McCabe—Watershed Stewardship Program

**Raquette River Advisory Council**

Richard (Dick) McDonald—Chair (representing NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)

**St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council**

John Tenbusch—Planning Office

**St. Lawrence County Mountain Bike Association**

Jim Akins—Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area (partner)

**St. Lawrence County Recreational Trails Advisory Board**

Deb Christy—Coordinator

**St. Lawrence River Watershed Partnership / County Soil & Water Conservation Districts**

Raeanne Dulanski—St. Lawrence County

Elizabeth Mangle—Hamilton County

Chastity Miller—Franklin County (partnership coordinator)

## RRBT VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PLAN (VSP)

### SECTION 7: APPENDICES - RESOURCES BY STEWARDSHIP ISSUE AND BY SECTION OF RIVER PLUS OTHER PERTINENT MATERIALS

Revised Draft as of November 2016

#### APPENDIX 1: RESOURCES BY STEWARDSHIP ISSUE

The following resources, including best practices, pertinent to the Raquette River have been identified through the VSP development process, as used and/or recommended by stewards working in river corridor as well as other interested people. Information is provided by stewardship issue and organization producing the information (in alphabetical order). Some are referenced under an inventory of conditions or as an example of action being taken in Section 3.

#### INVASIVE SPECIES

Adirondack North Country Association:

- ✓ Adirondack North Country - Be a Byway Champion / Invasive Species Alert

Cornell University Cooperative Extension and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation:

- ✓ Controlling Invasive Species in Woodlots (2006)

Cornell University / New York Invasive Species Research Institute:

- ✓ A Review of the Science and Management of Eurasian Watermilfoil: Recommendations for Future Action in New York State (revised November 11, 2011)

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District:

- ✓ Aquatic Invasive Plants of the Adirondacks
- ✓ Terrestrial Invasive Plants of the Adirondacks

Long Lake Association:

- ✓ Help Prevent Eurasian Watermilfoil (EW) from Invading Long Lake (2008) (door hangtag)
- ✓ The Water Level (annual newsletter with water monitoring report and information about Lake Steward Program)

New York State (NYS) Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):

- ✓ Anglers & Boaters: Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species and Fish Diseases in New York State
- ✓ Careful Use of Baitfish (2/2000)
- ✓ Keep Fishing Great! Use Certified Bait! (3/27/07)
- ✓ Have You Seen the Invasive Insect-Hemlock Woolly Adelgid?

NYS DEC and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation:

- ✓ Don't Move Firewood – You Could Be Killing Our Trees! (hard copy and online information)

Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM): Adirondack Power Invasive Plant Program (APIPP c/o The Nature Conservancy-Adirondack Chapter):

- ✓ Invasive Plants of the Adirondacks

- ✓ Invasive Species Awareness Week—Held annually to highlight threat of invasive plants and animals, share ways to prevent spread and present management options all while affirming the importance of local action and strong partnerships

PRISM / Saint Lawrence – Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO c/o The Nature Conservancy): variety of information

- ✓ Priority Species in the SLELO Region
- ✓ 10 Things YOU Can Do to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species
- ✓ Spread the Word about Invasives

Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute / Stewardship Program:

- ✓ Online information, including locations of Invasive Species Programs, annual boat launch use summaries and Regional Stewardship Reports for Long Lake, Raquette Lake and Tupper Lake

United States (US) Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:

- ✓ Be on the Lookout for the Asian Longhorned Beetle (door hangtag)
- ✓ Follow the Signs (information about the Asian longhorned beetle)
- ✓ Emerald Ash Borer – The Green Menace (program aid no. 1769)

## **WATER QUALITY**

Adirondack Park Agency:

- ✓ Online information for property owners related to shorelines, rivers and trees including Shoreline Restrictions which is a supplement to the Citizen's Guide

Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation:

- ✓ Adirondack Loons—Sentinels of Mercury Pollution in New York's Aquatic Ecosystems (brochure about mercury studies in Adirondack Park with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Wildlife Conservation Society)

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District:

- ✓ Water quality and sampling assistance for communities and organizations, including the Long Lake Association

NYS DEC:

- ✓ New York State Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality—BMP Field Guide (2011 Edition available online)
- ✓ New York State Stormwater Design Manual – Chapter 9—Redevelopment Projects (online)
- ✓ Stormwater Management Guidance Manual for Local Officials (9/2004) (online)
- ✓ Water Body Inventory for Raquette River Watershed (online)
- ✓ We All Live in A Watershed (online)

NYS Department of Health:

- ✓ Adirondack Region – Health Advice on Eating Fish You Catch (4/12)
- ✓ St. Lawrence Valley Region – Health Advice on Eating Fish You Catch Including Jefferson and Oswego Counties and parts of Clinton, Franklin, and St. Lawrence Counties (5/14)
- ✓ Health Advice on Eating Sportfish and Game—updated advisory also are posted online, organized by region and by waterbody with maps.

NYS Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability and Division of Water:

- ✓ Watershed Plans – Protecting and Restoring Water Quality (two CD set with guidebook and video)

Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute / Lake and Stream Water Quality Monitoring Program:

- ✓ Adirondack Lake Assessment Program
- ✓ Water quality monitoring programs/studies with/for Blue Mountain Lake, Long Lake, etc.
- ✓ Online information, including locations of lakes and streams monitored starting in 1989

St. Lawrence University:

- ✓ Partnership to Examine the Condition of Regional Lakes and their Influence on Tributaries of the St. Lawrence River

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe / Environment Division:

- ✓ Akwesasne Family Guide to Eating Locally-Caught Fish (11/13)

USDA National Agroforestry Center:

- ✓ 'Working Trees' series of information including one on riparian forest buffers (online)

Wildlife Conservation Society / Adirondack Program:

- ✓ Annual Loon Census: Count done on the third Saturday of July with help of local Adirondack residents and visitor volunteers provides quick glimpse of status of the breeding loon population in and around the Adirondack Park and across New York State.

## **SIGNAGE & WARNINGS**

BRI Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation:

- ✓ Boat launch sign titled 'Help Protect Loons' (for sale)

Brookfield Renewable Energy:

- ✓ Various site-specific signs including Leave No Trace

NYS Department of Transportation:

- ✓ New York State Scenic Byways Sign Manual (online)
- ✓ The New York State Scenic Byways Program and Signs—An Addendum to the New York State Scenic Byways Program Nomination Handbook Corridor Management Plan Requirements (online)

Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area / Partners:

- ✓ Signage strategy drafted as part of new Management Agreement (April 2014)

## **TRAILS & FACILITIES**

Adirondack Mountain Club:

- ✓ Stewardship Programs / Summit Steward Program and Backcountry Stewardship Programs (online information including Trail Steward / Maintainer Workshops)

Northern Forest Canoe Trail:

- ✓ Adopt-A-Segment Program (online information showing HUBs and Trail Maintainers for sections 1 & 2 along Raquette River corridor in New York State)

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation:

- ✓ Access Coordinators for Region 5 and 6
- ✓ Accessible Destinations by county plus Adirondacks and North Country Accessible Recreation Map for DEC Regions 5 and 6 (online)
- ✓ Adopt-a-Natural-Resource Stewardship Program (policy and application form)

St. Lawrence Mountain Bike Association:

- ✓ Map and other info about trail maintenance, user rules, etc.

US Department of Transportation / Federal Highway Administration:

- ✓ Manuals and Guides for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance and Operation and for Signs—online information provides several manuals, best practices guides and resources from government agencies and nonprofit organizations (including resources for managing conflicts on multi-use trails)

### **STEWARDSHIP ETHIC**

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ehtics:

- ✓ Leave No Trace Principles (developed in cooperation with the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- ✓ Teaching resources (suite of educational information/materials for volunteers, supporters and educators)
- ✓ Training courses by Adirondack Mountain Club (one of seven national providers of Leave No Trace Master Educator courses plus provides Leave No Trace Trainer courses and offers Leave No Trace Awareness Workshops)

### **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

County Soil & Water Conservation Districts (Franklin, Hamilton & St. Lawrence):

- ✓ Programs include conservation field days as well as education programs for Earth Day, Arbor Day, Water Week, Soil and Water Stewardship Week plus North Adirondack Regional Envirothons annually for high school students in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and St. Lawrence Counties who compete at Paul Smith's College on knowledge of soils, water resources, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation:

- ✓ Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design) and Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)—Educator workshops and Annual Teacher Institutes for K - 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- ✓ Public Fishing Rights and the Landowner – The Facts (brochure)

Save the River:

- ✓ Riverkeeper Volunteer Training Program
- ✓ Save the River in the Schools Program (curriculum, activities, etc.)

The Wild Center:

- ✓ Exhibits and programs include special presentations and events during annual Raquette River Awareness Weeks

Traditional Arts in Upstate New York:

- ✓ Oral history training plus archive materials from projects in river corridor (e.g., dam builders, etc.)

## APPENDIX 2: OTHER RESOURCES BY SECTION OF THE RIVER

A variety of other information including management plans/agreements and studies also have been developed for specific sections of the river, as listed below and organized by municipality as the river flows from Blue Mountain Lake at the southern end to Akwesasne at the north where it enters the St. Lawrence River. Some are referenced under an inventory of conditions or as an example of action being taken in Section 3.

### Town and Village of Tupper Lake:

- ✓ Tupper Lake Revitalization Strategy and Action Plan Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan includes improvements to waterfront parks, trails and more (6/2012)
- ✓ Lake Simond facilities / agreement between town and Tupper Lake Rod & Gun Club

### Town of Piercefield:

- ✓ Mount Arab Fire Tower—Friends of Mount Arab in partnership with NYS DEC produce an annual newsletter including information about Summit Stewards (student interns and other volunteers) and work with others including the Adirondack Mountain Club???
- ✓ Any water-related resources???

### Town of Piercefield to Hamlet of Raymondville:

- ✓ Brookfield Renewable Energy—General Land Use Policy for Brookfield Power New York Hydroelectric Lands (Revision 3 dated 12/8/2010) plus brochures with maps and other information for Raquette River Recreation Corridor, Red Sandstone Trail and Stone Valley—A Cooperative Recreation Area
- ✓ Raquette River Advisory Council (RRAC)—monitoring and projects supported by Brookfield Renewable Energy and signatories to FERC licensing agreements for Raquette River Projects (Carry Falls, Upper Raquette, Middle Raquette and Lower Raquette)

### Town of Colton:

- ✓ Higley Flow State Park—variety of materials including map of park and nature guides (e.g., trees in park, birds in park, etc.) produced by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- ✓ Stone Valley Cooperative Recreation Area—Management Agreement (April 2014) (as revised by Stone Valley partners including appendices, all of which is available online via the Adirondack Mountain Club / Laurentian Chapter website)

### Village of Potsdam:

- ✓ Village of Potsdam Downtown and Waterfront Revitalization Plan (2012) (developed by Village's Local Waterfront Advisory Committee)

### Village of Norwood:

- ✓ Norwood Lake—St. Lawrence University study of Eurasian and variable leaf milfoil (2012) and Clarkson University study (2013)

### APPENDIX 3: OTHER PERTINENT MATERIALS

A variety of other materials provide additional information pertinent to stewardship of the river (both land and water). Information is listed by producing organization.

Adirondack Regional Tourism Council:

- ✓ Adirondack Fishing (angler's guide to Adirondack lakes, ponds, rivers and streams)
- ✓ Adirondack Waterways (river corridor divided among sections of park)

BRI Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation:

- ✓ Scientific research on mercury pollution and loon migration and nesting
- ✓ Fishing Line Recycling Program and other conservation measures
- ✓ School Curricula and other outreach/education assistance

NYS DEC:

- ✓ Adirondack Canoe Routes – Adirondack Forest Preserve Map and Guide
- ✓ Clean Boats, Clean Waters (rack card) plus Clean Gear, Clear Water (rack card)
- ✓ Guide to Freshwater Fishing in New York State (map with information by water body)
- ✓ Long Pond Easement – Towns of Clare & Colton (5/11/2007)
- ✓ Raquette Boreal Unit Management Plan (12/2006)
- ✓ The Raquette River in St. Lawrence County—Something for Everyone (5/1985)
- ✓ Wildlife Recreation Map

Northern Forest Canoe Trail:

- ✓ Adopt-A-Segment Programs (online information including Trail Maintainer Map)
- ✓ The Northern Forest Canoe Trail: The Official Guidebook (2010)

Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute:

- ✓ Final Project Report 2010 - Eastern Lake Ontario Upper Watershed AIS Response Team

St. Lawrence County:

- ✓ St. Lawrence County User Rules and Land Use Rules

St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce:

- ✓ St. Lawrence County Angler's Guide
- ✓ St. Lawrence County Waterfalls Guide—Explore the Beauty of Nature

USDA Forest Service:

- ✓ Portable Timber Bridges: An Eco-friendly Solution for Stream Crossings (Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry)
- ✓ Temporary Stream and Wetland Crossing Options for Forest Management (North Central Research Station)

Waterbird Society:

- ✓ Special volume on loons, published with Biodiversity Research Institute, presents 15 papers on behavior, life-history and population ecology, movements and migrations, habitat and landscape requirements and impacts of contaminants on loons (available online)

Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Program and others (prepared for NYSERDA):

- ✓ Long-Term Monitoring and Assessment of Mercury Based On Integrated Sampling Efforts Using the Common Loon, Prey Fish, Water, and Sediment (Final Report September 2011)