



Adirondack Wild announces: *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park*

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Adirondack Wild announces publication of an illustrated guide for how conservation science can be applied to land use planning inside and outside of the Adirondack Park. Titled *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park - Practical Steps to Better Land Use Decisions*, the 30-page booklet recommends ten tested, non-regulatory strategies to serve as a “pathway” to ecological, science-based site planning. Local governments in the Park can apply these to enhance their community’s development while protecting their most vulnerable natural resources.

The publication can be downloaded from the Adirondack Wild website at www.adirondackwild.org. Hard copies are also available.

The publication’s lead author is conservation biologist Dr. Michael Klemens, Adirondack Wild’s landscape conservation advisor. “In this time of decreasing state and federal support for conservation, locally-based grass roots efforts such as described in *Pathways* will become ever the more vital to sustaining the ecological and economic health of the Adirondack Park,” said Dr. Klemens.

The author founded a consortium of municipalities, planners and scientists working together to improve the stewardship of natural resources in the Hudson Valley and Connecticut. He believes that the same principles and cooperative

model could also be effective in the Adirondacks. Dr. Klemens serves as the chairman of his own town's Planning and Zoning Commission.

"Empowering local government, community leaders and residents to plan for conservation, protection and community resiliency in an era of rapid change, including climate change, is an urgent task," stated Adirondack Wild's Dan Plumley, a resident of Keene. "We publish this to help guide and support Adirondack communities as they plan for their future. By empowering efforts to plan with their own ecological systems in mind, Park communities can help secure the wild and rural qualities that attract so many to visit, recreate or stay here for a lifetime. We offer this guidebook in that spirit."

Keene Town Supervisor Joe Pete Wilson, Jr. took time to read the guidebook, noting that

"for me as the new Town Supervisor for Keene, having tools to learn how to address land use issues is critical."

Adirondack Wild is sponsoring the project because the organization recognizes the crucial role that the Park's 102 local governments play in land use planning throughout the six-million acre Park. "We realize that local governments, planning boards and community-minded organizations want to retain their natural character and resources which are the lifeblood of their economies," said Adirondack Wild's David Gibson. "However, the concepts, tools and local examples of conservation planning are hard to find in one place. This booklet attempts to fill that void."

"Our guidebook addresses voluntary actions which any community in the Park can take to adhere to a philosophy that benefits environmental, recreational and fiscal concerns," said Adirondack Wild board chair Terry Jandreau. "This publication is part of Adirondack Wild's continuing efforts to educate, promote and protect the Park's integrated public and private landscapes."

The guide is highly readable and written for a lay audience; no science background is required to appreciate how these planning tools can be applied to site planning of development while avoiding large negative impacts to the Park's environment. A glossary defining all of the science-based and planning terms used in the guidebook is included.

Adirondack Wild will present the guidebook's findings at local venues this summer and invite discussion about how the strategies in the publication can best be applied to a given community. The report can be downloaded from www.adirondackwild.org. *Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve* is a not-for-profit, membership organization which advances New York's "Forever Wild" legacy and Forest Preserve policies in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, and promotes public and private land stewardship consistent with wild land values through education, advocacy and research.