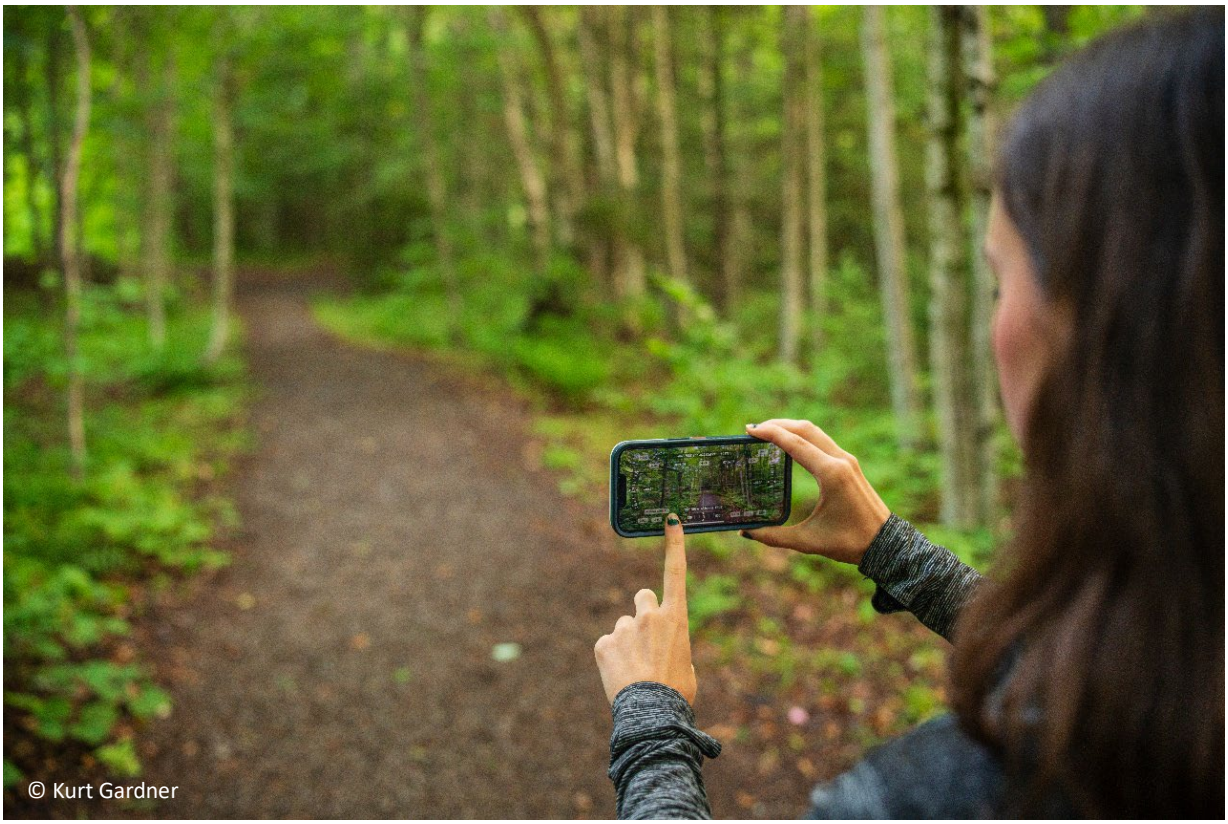
# GROUND TRUTHING ACCESSIBLE WILDLAND TRAILS ACROSS THE ADIRONDACK PARK

A survey report for the Adirondack Land Trust by Sophie Williams



# Table of Contents

PREFACE ..... 2
INTRODUCTION ..... 3
Project Aims ..... 3
Defining Accessibility ..... 3
Gaps in Accessible Outdoor Recreation ..... 3
Benefits of Inclusive Outdoor Spaces and Experiences ..... 3
METHODS AND GUIDELINES ..... 4
Trail Selection Process ..... 4
Data Collection – Parameter Selection and Definition ..... 4
Selection of Overall Accessibility ..... 6
RESULTS -- ACCESSIBLE WILDLAND TRAILS ..... 7
KEY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION ..... 9
By The Numbers – A Range of Accessible Trails ..... 9
Geographic Analysis ..... 11
Recommended Scope for Further Data Collection and Analysis ..... 12
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..... 12
REFERENCES ..... 13

# PREFACE

The Adirondack Land Trust, founded in 1984, conserves forests, waters, farmlands, and wild places to benefit nature, people, and the economy. Our working area includes the entire Adirondack Park, as well as all of Clinton and Franklin counties, and critical wildlife areas between the Adirondacks and other large blocks of forests.

The three primary ways we conserve land are:

- Acquiring land to own and manage as nature preserves that offer outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Working with New York State to add land to the constitutionally protected, forever wild forest preserve.
- Working with private landowners to keep the Adirondack forest landscape connected and resilient to threats like climate change, invasive species, and habitat loss.

**How we evaluate conservation values**

When presented with a potential land protection opportunity, the Adirondack Land Trust uses geographic information system (GIS) technology to evaluate each parcel through the lens of various conservation values. Is the parcel adjacent to protected land? Does it have undeveloped river or stream shoreline? How does it rank in terms of climate resiliency?

**A gap in knowledge**

Accessible Adirondack Tourism, Tri-Lakes Center for Independent Living, the chair of the New York State Accessibility Advisory Committee, and other community members brought to our attention a need for places that allow people with disabilities to experience nature. When we tried to understand the extent of existing opportunities across the Adirondacks, we realized that there was a knowledge gap.

This *Ground Truthing Accessible Wildland Trails* project is a first step toward filling that knowledge gap and creating a GIS data layer to help the Adirondack Land Trust consider accessibility needs and opportunities as part of our land protection evaluation process. We recognize that the information collected has broader applications and are delighted to share the results by way of this report, supplementary field notes, and accompanying story map.

**Disclaimer**

This report has been prepared for the Adirondack Land Trust to provide an initial and brief assessment of accessible trails across the park. Adirondack Land Trust staff are not experts in accessibility. The information and findings contained herein do not certify compliance with federal, state, or local accessibility requirements.

**Contact information**

Adirondack Land Trust Director of Communications Connie Prickett and Grants Manager Mary Thill were lead advisors on this project. Contact either one via info@adirondacklandtrust.org or 518-576-2400.

# INTRODUCTION

## Project Aims

This report provides an initial assessment and gap analysis of universally accessible wildland trails within the Adirondack State Park. The goal of this research is to find where trails accessible to people with mobility disabilities are located, where they are lacking, and where more work needs to be done to improve the accessibility of these trails.

## Defining Accessibility

Accessible outdoor recreation considers a broad range of disabilities. The ADA defines a person with a disability as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, or a history or record of an impairment, or is perceived as having an impairment.

This research focuses only on finding and surveying trails that are accessible for people with mobility disabilities. "A mobility disability can be defined as a disability that can affect movement ranging from fine motor movement such as using the hands to grasp and move objects, to gross motor skills, such as walking" (Connecticut State Department of Public Health). Following this definition, this research focuses on surveying trails for people with a range of mobility disabilities or with other requirements such as use of wheelchairs or strollers. (Note: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides temporary revocable permits to allow motor vehicle access to certain state lands for qualified people with disabilities. These permits are not within the scope of this research.)

Additionally, this project focuses on identifying accessible trails that provide a wildland experience. A wildland trail is a trail that allows an individual to become immersed in the natural environment, a place where road noise or development fades away. A wildland trail can provide access to wildlife sightings, peace, solitude and other experiences that draw millions of visitors to the Adirondacks every year.

## Gaps in Accessible Outdoor Recreation

There is growing recognition that the Adirondack Park lacks adequate accessible outdoor spaces. The importance of outdoor recreation for individuals and communities is well-known, but prioritizing this for all people, regardless of ability, is an area that needs improvement. Recreational opportunities for people who use a wheelchair or a walking aid or have other mobility challenges are hard to find, especially when looking for an immersive experience in nature.

It can be difficult to find information on accessible outdoor recreation opportunities in the Adirondacks. Some information can be inaccurate, and other sources offer a narrow scope.

Outdoor recreation is the primary draw for visitors to the Adirondacks and the reason why many people choose to live here. The estimated 2,000 miles of traditional hiking trails on forest preserve alone in the Adirondacks compared to the 51 miles of accessible trails across forest preserve and other lands represents a disparity of opportunity that limits many people from experiencing the natural landscape.

## Benefits of Inclusive Outdoor Spaces and Experiences

Physical activity provides long-term health benefits for people of all ages. Physical activity and spending time outside can help people feel healthy and focused. Without accessible trails to provide these

opportunities for older generations and others with mobility disabilities, these benefits are denied to a large segment of the population.

Accessible trails benefit more than people with mobility challenges. According to data from the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism, 71% of visitors to the region prefer short, family-friendly hikes.

## METHODS AND GUIDELINES

### Trail Selection Process

The 36 trails surveyed for this report were selected through a broad research net to ensure all potentially accessible trails were included. Information was pulled from various sources including the NY Department of Environmental Conservation's Accessible Recreation Destinations, Birdability, Curb Free with Cory Lee, various blogs, AllTrails, Accessible Adirondack Tourism, and outreach to municipalities and community members across the Adirondack Park.

Potential trails were initially vetted using online photos, trail descriptions, and reviews to assess the possibility of accessibility. Some trails such as paths in local municipal parks were excluded to align with the wildland focus of this report. The 36 trails surveyed are intended to serve as an initial comprehensive list, but accessible wildland trails that fit the criteria of the report may have been missed. If you know of an accessible trail that has been established since the publishing of this report or one that was overlooked, please contact the Adirondack Land Trust via info@adirondacklandtrust.org or 518-576-2400.

### Data Collection – Parameter Selection and Definition

The following parameters were measured at each trail. Each parameter was selected based on guidelines from sources including but not limited to the Land Trust Alliance's Open to All: A Disability Inclusion Guide for Land Trusts, The Nature Conservancy's Equitable Access Guidelines for the New York Preserve Network, Birdability Access Considerations, Open Space Institute and New York Outdoor Recreation Coalition's Open Spaces for All, Accessible Adirondack Tourism, and Disabled Hikers' resources. The parameters focus on accessibility for people with mobility disabilities, therefore other parameters could be added in the future to consider other disabilities as well.

**Wildland Experience |** Subjective rating of wild experience on a trail. Ratings range from 1 as least wild, to 5 being the most wild in character. Assessment of this criterion relates to road proximity, noise, degree of encroachment by other forms of civilization, degree of land cultivation outside of the trail, canopy cover, etc.

**Trail Distance |** Number of miles of trail available for people with mobility disabilities to use. Calculated as distance of trail (one-way or loop).

### Disclaimer

*For this research project, the evaluation of each trail is not a full assessment of its accessibility but is instead an initial assessment of trails that are or have been indicated as accessible. Trails deemed accessible provide universal access for a majority of people because they have little to no barriers for people with mobility disabilities.*

*Because each trail was surveyed at a specific time, conditions or improvements may change in the future.*

**Trail Surface |** Accessible trails require a firm and stable surface, including but not limited to compacted gravel, compacted natural surface, boardwalks, pavement, etc.

**> 3ft Width |** At any point along the trail, is the width of the trail at least 3ft? 3ft allows most wheelchair users to pass, but overgrown brush, rocks, etc., can cause the width of the trail to become narrower, even if the trail is intended to be wide enough.

**< 12% Slope |** At any point along the trail, is the slope (grade) less than 12%? This is the maximum slope considered accessible to people with disabilities. (Note: even if the trail has less than a 12% inclination, significant slopes (5-10%) can still create barriers for people with disabilities if there are not ample rest stops along the way). Any significant grade was estimated using the Theodolite App (Figure 1). (Side slope was not measured as part of this project but mentioned in the field notes when notable.)

**Trail Conditions |** While a trail may be intended to be accessible, the conditions of the trail at any one time can create barriers including unstable surfaces that can prevent people with disabilities from using the trail. These can include leaf litter or overgrown brush, rocks, broken boards, eroded surfaces, and poor drainage.

**Rest Stops |** It is important to have rest stops, including benches and pull-outs for people with disabilities to stop for a break along the trail. Pull-outs can be defined as wider sections that allow people to move off the main trail so others can pass. They are especially helpful for wheelchair, scooter, or walking frame users, or people who are slow walkers (Birdability).

**Scenic Vistas |** While not an accessibility requirement, knowing if there are scenic vistas available along the trail (and the number of scenic vistas) can allow people with disabilities to anticipate what they may be able to experience on the trail before they get there.

**User Fee |** Does it cost money to use the trail? (Entrance fee to campground or fee to use the trail, etc.)

**Toilets |** Data was collected on whether there are accessible toilets present at the trailhead (ex. Accessible Porta-Potty, composting toilet or toilet inside a facility). If there was an accessible toilet, are other barriers present that would prevent use of the toilet by people with disabilities?

**Parking |** Accessible parking at trailheads lifts an important barrier that often prevents people with mobility disabilities from accessing accessible wildland trails. Data was collected on the following attributes of parking: surface of the parking area, designated accessible spaces, designated space(s) next to the accessible parking and an accessible path to the trail.

### Available Information About Each Trail

Accurate information, either online or at the trailhead, that describes the trail, its key attributes, and any barriers, is key for individuals to be able to gauge whether they can use a trail based on their own

abilities. Helpful information includes trail distance, average grade, maximum grade, trail surface, trail width, average cross slope, images, and maps.

- **Online Information |** What information is available online (across multiple websites) that describes the trail for potential users?

- **Trailhead Information |** What information is available at the trailhead that describes the trail for potential users?

**Trail Description |** A description of the trail was also produced after each site visit to augment information not included in the above parameters. The descriptions provide additional information to potential users so individuals can gauge their ability to use a trail and to share information that may be useful to land managers and community groups. (See "Accessible Wildland Trails – Supplementary Field Notes" document.)

*Figure 1. Theodolite App overlaying grade and other information when assessing the Adirondack Rail Trail. The Theodolite App is a multifunction viewfinder that combines a compass, two-axis inclinometer, GPS and more to overlay data onto a photo.*

### Selection of Overall Accessibility

After each of the above data points was collected, overall accessibility was rated. For a trail to be deemed "accessible" for the purposes of this report, it did not have to meet all of the parameters but had to provide a trail experience with as few barriers as possible. For a trail to be deemed "partially accessible," it had to meet some of the necessary parameters but not all of them. Often the "partially accessible" trails are those that are not necessarily accessible for wheelchair users but are still flat and have a relatively stable surface that may be suitable for navigation by people using other types of walking aids. In other words, many trails were deemed partially accessible to consider that there are a range of mobility disabilities, and labeling a trail as "partially accessible" allows those who may be able to use these trails to find them.

*Figure 2. Examples of Wildland Experience rankings, with 1 least wild and 5 most wild. 1. Peggy's Point | 2. Sacandaga River Walk | 3. Wickham Marsh | 4. Lampson Falls | 5. Hell Diver Pond*

## RESULTS — ACCESSIBLE WILDLAND TRAILS

After initial research and data collection, 36 trails with potential to be accessible for people with mobility disabilities were visited and ground truthed. The following table and figure summarize the data collected from each trail.

In the table, trails are listed in alphabetical order within their respective county (Figure 3). Trails located in more than one county have an asterisk (*). Please refer to the section titled "Methods and Guidelines" for a description of each parameter. For more detailed descriptions of each trail, please refer to the following document: "Accessible Wildland Trails –Supplementary Field Notes."

Figure 4 displays the results of the data as a map. Accessible trails are indicated in blue, partially accessible trails in yellow, and trails that are not accessible in grey. The size of each circle corresponds to a trail's wildland ranking score. Large circles indicate that a trail was ranked higher (more wild) on the wildland scale.

## Accessible Trails - Results

● : Yes ◐ : Partially : No (*) = Trail is located in more than one county

| Trail | Accessible | Wildland Experience (1 to 5) | Trail Distance (miles) | Firm and Stable Surface | At Least 3ft Width | Less than 12% Slope | Adequate Current Conditions | Rest Stops | Scenic Vistas | Accessible Toilets | Accessible Parking | User Fee |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Clinton County** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area | ● | 2 | 0.05 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | |
| Little Ausable River Trail | ● | 1 | 1.5 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Silver Lake Bog Preserve | | 4 | 0.6 | | ● | ● | | ● | | | | |
| **Essex County** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beaver Brook Trail | ● | 3 | 0.3 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Essex Quarry Nature Preserve | | 2 | 0.4 | | | | | | ● | | | |
| Flume Trail System | ● | 2 | 0.1 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| Frontier Town Campground and Day Use Area | ◐ | 2 | 2 | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Henry's Trail, Au Sable Forks | | 2 | 0.5 | ● | | ● | | ● | | ● | | |
| Henry's Woods, Lake Placid | ◐ | 3 | 0.3 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | | | | |
| High Falls Gorge | ● | 1 | 0.25 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Tim's Trail, Boquet River Nature Preserve | ● | 4 | 1.1 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | | | | |
| Webb Royce Swamp Overlook Trail | ◐ | 3 | 0.15 | | | ● | | | ● | | ● | |
| Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area | ● | 3 | 0.1 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | ◐ | |
| **Franklin County** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adirondack Rail Trail* | ● | 2 | 34 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Barnum Brook Trail, Paul Smith's VIC | ● | 4 | 0.6 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Bloomingdale Bog Trail | ◐ | 4 | 0.7 | | | ● | | | ● | | | |
| Goodman Mountain Trail | ◐ | 4 | 0.25 | | ● | ● | | ● | | | ● | |
| Hoyt-Peroni Trail | ● | 2 | 0.15 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | |
| Junction Pass Trail | ● | 1 | 1.5 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| Upper Dam Trail and (Lows) Access Road | ◐ | 5 | 2.4 | ● | | ● | | | ● | | | |
| Wild Center | ● | 2 | 2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| **Hamilton County** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Helldiver Pond Trail | ● | 5 | 0.2 | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | |
| Icehouse Pond Trail | ◐ | 5 | 0.4 | ● | | ● | | ● | ● | | | |
| John Dillon Park | ● | 5 | 3.5 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Sacandaga River Walk | ◐ | 2 | 0.75 | | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| TOBIE Trail* | ◐ | 2 | 16.4 | | ● | | | ● | ● | | ● | |
| **Herkimer County** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moss Lake Trail | ● | 4 | 0.3 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| Sand Pond Trail | ● | 5 | 0.15 | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | | | |
| **St. Lawrence County** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lampson Falls Trail | ◐ | 4 | 0.5 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| **Warren County** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dean Farm Heritage Trails | ● | 3 | 1 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Grandmother Tree Nature Trail | | 4 | 1 | | | ● | | | ● | | ◐ | |
| Peggy's Point | ● | 1 | 0.15 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | |
| Scaroon Manor Campground and Day Use Area | | 2 | 0.4 | | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| The Sembrich | ● | 1 | 0.15 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| Up Yonda Farm | ● | 2 | 0.2 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Warren County Bikeway | ● | 1 | 3.6 | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | |

*Figure 3. Table displaying the data collected for each trail.*
*Key: Blue Circles = Yes, Yellow Half-Circles = Partially, No Circle = No*

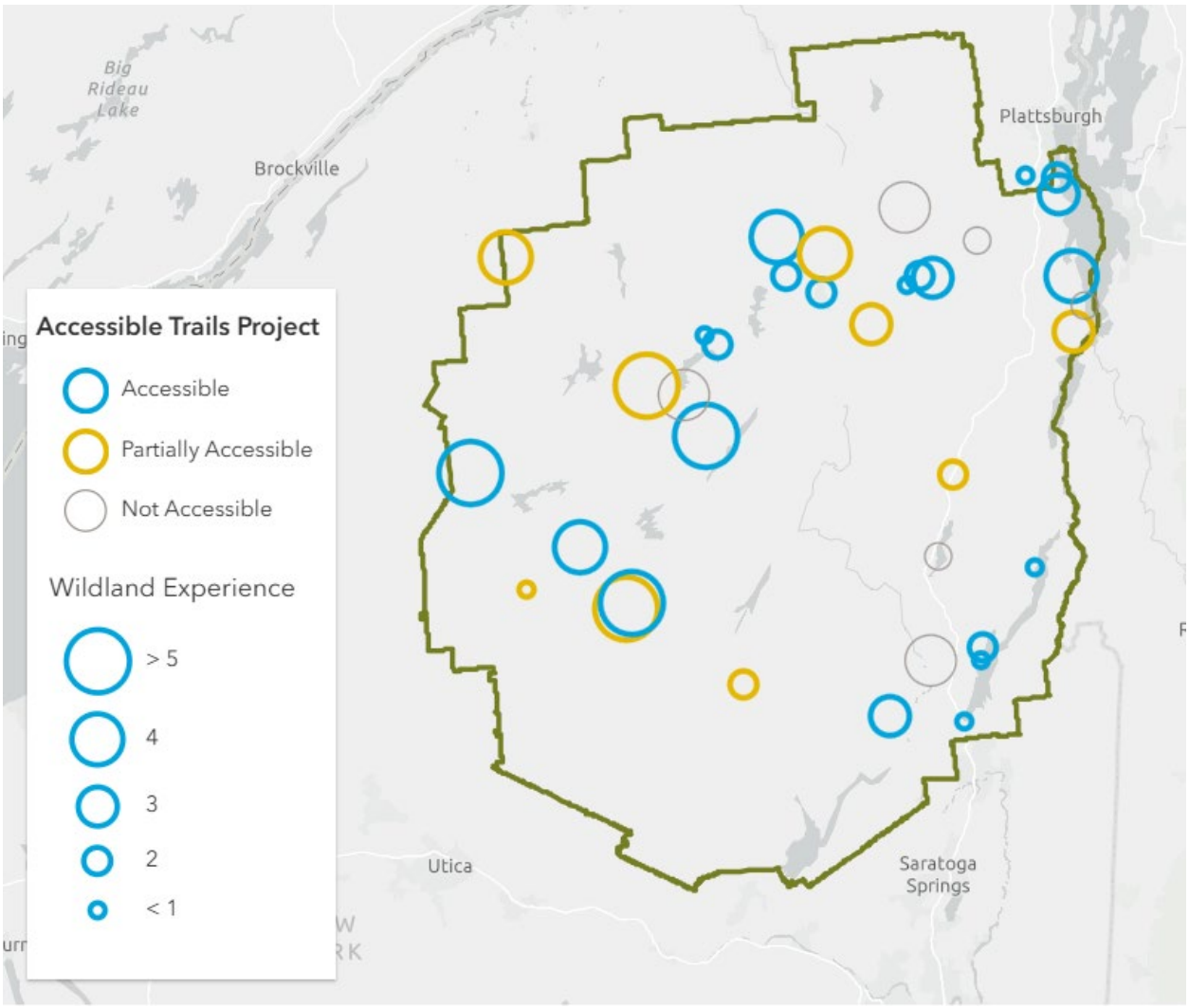



*Figure 4. Map displaying the accessibility and wildland ranking for each trail surveyed within the Adirondack Park boundary. Key:*

- *Blue Circles = Accessible, Yellow Circles = Partially Accessible, Gray Circles = Not Accessible*
- *Larger Circles = More Wild, Smaller Circles = Less Wild*

## KEY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section provides a brief overview of key findings and discussion of the results. This analysis does not capture every aspect of the data collection and one should refer to following section for future research potential: Scope for Further Data Collection and Analysis. Additionally, please refer to Figure 3, Figure 4, and document titled "Accessible Wildland Trails – Supplementary Field Notes".

### By The Numbers – A Range of Accessible Trails

While 36 trails with the potential to be accessible were surveyed, only 21 (58.33%) were found to be accessible; 9 trails (25%) were partially accessible, and 6 trails (16.67%) were not accessible. This means that while there are over 2,000 miles of traditional trails on just Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks, there are only 51 miles of accessible trails across forest preserve and other lands. Without the addition of the Adirondack Rail Trail there are only 17 miles of accessible trails.

*Figure 5. By the numbers: 36 trails visited, of which 21 are accessible. Of the 21 accessible trails, 12 are less than 0.5 miles and 9 are rated medium-to-high for wildland feel.*

It is important to note that not all of the trails surveyed are advertised as accessible, but they were surveyed because they were recommended by various organizations or community members. And out of the trails that are advertised as accessible, only 66.67% were found to be accessible through this survey. This represents a gap in the accuracy of information available about accessible trails and illustrates why it can be an added challenge for people with mobility disabilities to access wildland trails in the Adirondacks. For example, during assessment of a 2-mile trail, a flight of stairs and bridge with two large steps were discovered about half-way around the trail. This presents a significant barrier for many people with mobility disabilities who travel to this site in anticipation of finding accessible trails.

The distance of an accessible trail is also key information for potential users. Oftentimes accessible trails are very short, making long drives across the Adirondacks difficult to justify for people with mobility disabilities. This report finds that out of the 21 accessible trails, only 9 are 0.5 miles or longer in distance. The ability to access accessible trails that are longer in length represents a large gap in the Adirondacks. Not only can longer trails help justify longer drives, but they also provide opportunities for people with mobility disabilities or stroller users to have multiple miles of trails to explore, without the redundancy of using the same mile of trail.

It is important to note that shorter trails can also be appealing to people with mobility disabilities who may not be able to travel longer distances. Therefore, being able to access a scenic vista on a shorter trail can add to its appeal. Out of the 21 accessible trails, 9 trails are less than 0.3 miles and also offer at least one scenic vista. A great example of a shorter trail that offers a scenic vista is the trail at Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area. This trail is only 0.1 mile but provides a significant view overlooking the marsh.

The last statistic that is key to experiencing nature in the Adirondacks is the wildland ranking. For those who live in or travel to the Adirondacks, being able to experience the peace and beauty of the

environment is part of the package. But many accessible trails do not provide a wildland experience because they are often the trails that are closest to a road or are similar in feel to a municipal park. These characteristics can prevent people with mobility disabilities from being able to become immersed in the nature that the Adirondacks has to offer. Out of the 21 accessible trails, only 9 ranked between 3-5 on the wildland scale. These results represent a gap in accessible trails that also allow people to become immersed in nature. A great example of an accessible trail that provides a truly wild experience and significant miles of trails is John Dillon Park. John Dillon Park's 3.5 miles of accessible trails provide users with the opportunity to explore remote ponds and travel through miles of forest.

### Geographic Analysis

Not only is having a diverse range of types of accessible trails important, but geographic distribution is a factor as well.

As shown in Figure 3, the accessible trails are mostly located in three counties: Essex (5), Franklin (5), and Warren (5). (Not all counties fall fully within the Adirondack Park and some may have accessible trails outside the park boundary that are not included in this report.)

To better understand where the majority of accessible trails are located, a cluster analysis was calculated using ArcGIS's Point Cluster analysis tool. The following parameters were applied: minimum of 3 points to be considered a cluster and a self-adjusting Hierarchical Density-Based Spatial Clustering of Applications with Noise (HDBSCAN). A self-adjusting HDBSCAN uses a range of distances to separate clusters of varying densities from outliers, therefore no search distance is needed (Esri ArcGIS). The results of the analysis are shown in Figure 6.

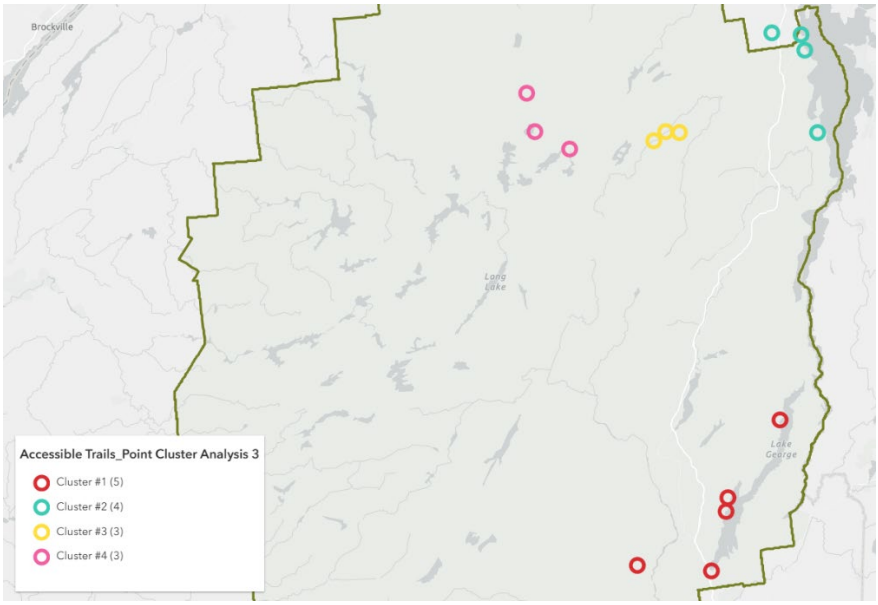



*Figure 6. Map displaying a cluster analysis of the 21 accessible trails surveyed.*

Gaps in accessible trail options are largest near the northern and western Adirondack Park border as well as in the southwest Adirondacks.

*KEY:*
*Each cluster is grouped by color. The number of trails in each cluster is shown in parentheses in the legend.*

The point cluster analysis of only accessible trails produced 4 clusters. Cluster #1 includes 5 trails located near Lake George (Dean Heritage Farms, Peggy's Point, The Sembrich, Up Yonda Farm Environmental Education Center, and Warren County Bikeway). Cluster #2 includes 4 trails in the northeast region (Tim's Trail at The Nature Conservancy's Boquet River Nature Preserve, Little Ausable River Trail, Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area, and Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area). Cluster #3 includes 3 trails located near Wilmington, Jay and Lake Placid (Beaver Brook Trails, Flume Trail System, and High

Falls Gorge). Cluster #4 includes 3 trails near Saranac Lake and Paul Smiths (the Adirondack Rail Trail, Barnum Brook Trail, and the Hoyt-Peroni Trail).

The point cluster analysis of only accessible trails shows where at least 3 accessible trails are present within a certain region. The results indicate that there are significant clusters of accessible trails near the following towns around the Adirondack Park: Keeseville, Lake George, Saranac Lake, and Wilmington. This also demonstrates that there are not significant clusters of accessible trails in many regions of the park, especially the southwest region. While there may be accessible trails in these regions, the trails are either not close enough to one another to produce a significant cluster and/or have fewer than 3 trails. People in these areas must drive farther distances to access an accessible Adirondack trail.

### Recommended Scope for Further Data Collection and Analysis

This report provides an initial data collection and assessment of accessible trails in the Adirondack Park, but there are areas that need further data collection and analysis.

Firstly, further research should be conducted to maintain this list of accessible trails and add new ones once they are created. For example, the town of Newcomb is discussing options to create universal access to its Hudson River Fen Snowmobile Trail in the summer. Additionally, a new accessible trail is currently being built along the Bog River in the town of Piercefield which will be 750' long. Lastly, the Adirondack Land Trust plans to build accessible trails on two of its preserves, Glenview Preserve and High Meadow Preserve (near Saranac Lake and Lake Placid, respectively). These trails will provide visitors with 3.5 miles of accessible trails through a variety of habitats and beautiful vistas.

Secondly, further research should be conducted to understand if trails are accessible for people with a wide range of disabilities, not just mobility disability. This can include accessible trails for people with blindness or low vision, intellectual or development disabilities, mental illness, hearing impairments and other health conditions. A broad consideration of accessibility is uncommon in trail assessment, which is often focused solely on mobility disabilities. Therefore, further research on accessible trails for other disabilities would not only provide key information for communities but also demonstrate the gaps in accessibility for a wide range of disabilities.

Thirdly, further analysis should be conducted of how the 36 trails surveyed in this report are connected to communities and other accessibility considerations, such as lodging accommodations and restaurants. For example, how far these accessible trails are from town centers and other amenities would provide useful information for people with disabilities, and also for communities to understand where gaps in accessible trails and accommodations may exist more locally.

There are many more ways in which this research can be expanded in the future. In addition to providing data to inform the Adirondack Land Trust's land protection and stewardship activities, the land trust hopes this report will provide a foundation to help communities and organizations strengthen accessible connections to the natural environment.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was made possible by the assistance, facilitation and encouragement of the Adirondack Land Trust staff, Board of Directors, and Next Generation Council, and guided primarily by staff advisors Connie Prickett and Mary Thill.

In particular, Stephen H. Burrington, Robert Andolina, Lisa Guide, David Henle, Heidi Kretser, and Joe Martens on the Board of Directors provided insight into the Adirondacks. Special thanks to land trust advisor Jamie Baxter for her time and companionship on site visits in the southwest Adirondacks.

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We are grateful to all of the municipal, government and nonprofit partners and community members who provided trail information across the Adirondacks.

This report was researched and authored by Sophie Williams, the Adirondack Land Trust's 2025 Intern for the Future of the Adirondacks. Sophie is a third-year student at the University of Oxford, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Geography. Her academic focus includes geographic information systems, science communication, and ecological data analysis. She has also conducted research on the experiences of mobility in public parks, exploring how people interact with urban green spaces. The internship was made possible by former land trust directors Barbara Glaser and Clarence Petty, Clarence's son Ed, and other donors.

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