Vegetation and Wildlife: An Invaluable Resource for the Catskills

Forest Types of the Route 28 Corridor

A variety of worlds to explore

Forest types differ greatly from one another. Pine-Oak forest, for example, is a dense forest with tall pine and deciduous oaks. On the other hand, First growth areas (never cut) are critical for maintaining species diversity and providing a pristine environment for wildlife. These areas are found throughout the Catskills region and play a crucial role in the ecosystem.

Rare and Endangered Species of the Central Catskills

It’s important to remember that even rare species can play an essential role in the ecosystem. They contribute to biodiversity and maintain ecological balance. The Invasive Species Threat

Invasive species are plant or animal species that are not native to a particular area and if given the opportunity will outcompete native species. This can cause significant damage to the ecosystem. For example, the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive species from Asia, has caused widespread destruction of Ash trees in the Catskills region. Similar threats exist for other species, such as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

Land features play a major role in the ecosystem. Long ridges and small water areas are critical for sustaining wildlife. One example is the Catskill Escarpment, which provides a unique habitat for various species. Wetlands are also crucial, as they act as natural filters and provide a diverse range of plant and animal species.

The Invasive Species Threat

Invasive species are a significant threat to the ecosystem. They can outcompete native species and disrupt the balance of the ecosystem. The Catskill Region is particularly vulnerable to invasive species due to its proximity to the Hudson River, which serves as a gateway for their introduction.

The Catskills ecosystem can tolerate only a limited number of invasive species. The effectiveness of the current methods of controlling invasive species is limited, and more comprehensive strategies are needed to mitigate this threat.

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It’s important to remember that even rare species can play an essential role in the ecosystem. They contribute to biodiversity and maintain ecological balance. For example, the Great Blue Heron, a rare species in the Catskill region, plays a crucial role in the ecosystem by controlling the population of fish and birds.

Some species, such as the Black Bear and the White-tailed Deer, are important to the local economy, as they attract tourists and provide a valuable resource for hunting and trapping.

There are several ways in which you can help protect the ecosystem and prevent the spread of invasive species. First, avoid introducing exotic plants and animals to the area. Second, report any sightings of invasive species to the appropriate authorities. Finally, support local conservation efforts and participate in clean-up activities to maintain the health of the ecosystem.
Catskills Route 28 Corridor Study
Andes, Margaretville, Fleischmanns, Shandaken, Olive, Woodstock

**Historical & Cultural Influences**

### The Catskill Pipeline

The Ashokan Reservoir

### Railroad Revival in the Catskills

What does this mean...

### Trails in the Route 28 Corridor

Catskill Locations in Regards to the Route 28 Corridor

Where are the opportunities to better engage?

How can we make these trails more accessible?

### History and Culture

Quotes from T. Morris Longstreth's 1919 novel "The Catskills"

Big Indian

"...a walking trip in the Catskills becomes a heart-warming affair. You realize the Indian era with its sudden forays from the forest; the era of the first straggling hunters. Then you find coming in quicker succession the tanners, the lumbermen, the brave homesteaders, who people the ravines and lift the paintless and perishing backwoods settlements from the plane of romance to that of business."

"Eventually the Catskills will be an immense pleasure park, as much of the Adirondack forest is now, set aside for the health, wealth, and happiness of the entire East."

Description derived from James Sullivan, History of the State of New York, vol 2, 1927

Hurley was granted by patent October 19, 1708. It has given territory to help form New Paltz in 1809, Elizabethtown in 1819, Olive in 1823, Rosendale in 1844 and Woodstock in 1853. It is moderately hilly, with extensive fertile flats along the Esopus Creek. The citizens of Hurley first asked for an extension of land to guarantee a supply of pasture land and forests, but the extended negotiations led to the granting of the notorious Hardenbergh Patent to Jacobis Hardenbergh and six others. Later, Robert Livingston purchased almost half of the Hardenbergh patent from its original owners.

The Hardenburgh Patent was the focus of the Andes Rent War where common citizens were forced to pay rent to wealthy European landowners.

The site of Bishop Falls now lies 1/4 mile from the main Ashokan Dam under 180 feet of water at the deepest part of the reservoir.

Quotes from T. Morris Longstreth's 1919 novel "The Catskills"

Phoenicia

"If the Mountain House is the eye of the Catskills, the Overlook the brow, Windham the lungs, and Slide Mountain the heart, then Phoenicia is the nerve center. It lies at the cross-roads of Nature, and as snug in its valleys as a moth in a muff. For merchantry it should be a strategic place to live. Every motorist who comes up the Esopus Valley from Kingston, or down the Esopus from the west, every traveler whose traffic delights the eye or dusts the nose of sellers of wares, must bisect Phoenicia."

Olive

"Half way up Big Injin is the little town of Oliverea, which the natives pronounce to rhyme with sea, and I don't see why they shouldn't. It boasts an engaging little schoolhouse, very white, with a yard, then already very green."

Big Indian

"We chose Big Injin--named for a strapping redskin who got into trouble because he would murder people. The name, of course, has been banalized into Big Indian,.."

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Quotes from T. Morris Longstreth's 1919 novel "The Catskills"
Summer Fall

Natural Features:

Common Fish:

Bullhead - Found in warmwater ponds and slow streams
Crappie - Prefers clear, quiet water with vegetation
Walleye - Prefers deeper waters
Pike - Prefers cooler, weedy waters
Pickerel - Found in cool lakes
Trout - NY State’s official fish! Found throughout the state
American Fly Fishing was born on the branches of the Neversink River in the Catskills
Panfish - Dressed warmly. Don’t forget your feet, fingers, and ears.
- Test the ice: Is it the proper thickness?
- Make sure you are aware of various fishing regulations.

Water-Based Recreation

Ice Fishing can be enjoyed on majority of lakes and ponds, however is prohibited in waters inhabited by trout. There are a number of safety precautions to be aware of. Before heading onto the ice:

Fishing Locations:

- Belleayre
- Catskill Creek
- Catskills Route 28 Corridor Study
- Catskill Recreational Clusters & Organizations
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Fishing License:

Required while fishing on any body of water in New York State.

Bass
Trout
Panfish
Toothsome

Seasonal Opportunities:

- Tubing
- Boating
- Ice Fishing
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Fishing Seasons:

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

Fishing Rights:

- Public Fishing Rights:
- Poplar Ridge
- Fischer Pond
- Ashokan Reservoir
- Pepacton Reservoir
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Public Fishing Rights:

- Big Indian Public Fishing Rights
- Catskills Public Fishing Rights
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