

Our Story

LUMBERJACK TRAILS ADVENTURE AREA MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019

The concept of The Lumberjack Trails Adventure Area is to designate a very small section of the New York State Forest system as a place where residents of New York State and visitors from all over the east coast can legally ride ATV's and dirt bikes. 20,000 acres, less than .5% of the New York State park system, would be allocated for this park.

The location of this park would be centered in Oquaga Creek State Park, located in the middle of State Forest land just to the east of Deposit, NY. In addition to all of the actives already allowed in the state forest land, this would be the first and only state land to allow ATV and Dirt Bike riding for many many years. This adventure area would also incorporate the water based activities already allowed on the Cannonsville Reservoir through the recreational boating program.

The rationale for this park is sevenfold:

The use of drugs in our upstate communities and inner cities has reached epidemic proportions. Families all over the United States, regardless of race, income level or location, are struggling with this issue. It primarily affects one of our community's most valuable resources: our young adults. This park will provide an alternative to the lifestyles and activities that can lead to drug and alcohol abuse. There isn't a single family that wouldn't trade every nickel they have to bring back their kids from the devastating effects of drug addiction.

Communities are made stronger by having strong families where the parents & guardians have significant interaction with their children. Recreational riding not only promotes social interaction between children, young adults and adults, in many ways it requires it. There are very few young people who can pursue riding without the financial, transportation and supervisory support of a parent or interested adult. This park and the activities it promotes, will provide a venue to have families spend time together far beyond what they normally would.

Increasing tourism by attracting people from the eastern third of the United States will provide an economic stimulus to New York State and the communities that surround this park in several ways. We will sell more food, lodging, fuel, bikes, ATV's, campers, trailers and trucks than we would if we did not attract tens of thousands of people each

year to the park.

Retaining the young people in our communities has been identified as a significant issue for our economic development. Besides providing jobs, if we don't provide fun activities for our young people to pursue they will leave for communities that do. Throughout the southern United States there are innumerable activities for our young people to pursue, some exactly as the park proposed here (Croom Motorcycle area – State of Florida for example). If we don't start to think about serving this population with activities to enhance their quality of life in New York, they will continue to leave our state.

Retaining our blue-collar work force is also a significant issue in all our communities in New York State. This park will provide an activity alternative that is very popular, especially with our blue-collar workforce. The working families of New York State have built this state into what it is today and enhancing the quality of life for our working families will help strengthen all our communities.

We will increase the use of and economic stimulus effect of the current state forests that would make up this park. Currently, there is very limited use of these state forest lands and this park would substantially increase that use and the economic impact this land will have on the state and surrounding communities. We can use this economic stimulus to further efforts to conserve our state forest system as well as provide funds to lower the tax burden on working families in this state.

Private Investment will be encouraged by providing opportunities to serve the visitors to this park. You can envision moto-cross parks, bmx bike parks and mountain biking trails being developed on adjacent private land to serve the same people who would come to the park. You can envision an increase in camping facilities to accommodate riders and other related commercial enterprises to serve the visitors to the park as well.