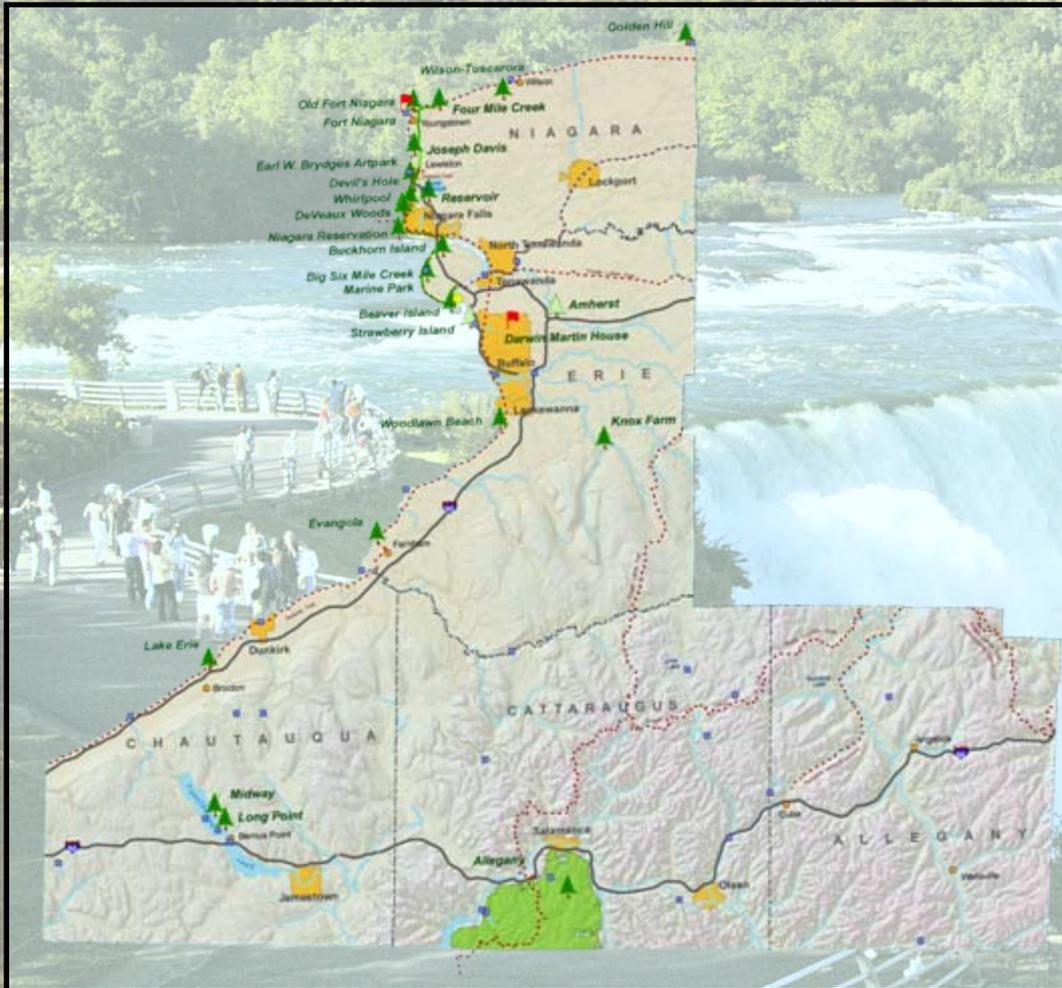


# Western New York State Parks and Historic Sites



**The Western Region includes 24 state parks and historic sites with a combined annual attendance of nearly 12 million**

## *Highlights*

Niagara Falls is the nation's oldest state park and welcomes over 8 million visitors annually – more than Yosemite and Yellowstone National parks combined!

Allegany State Park is the state's largest state park with 65,000 acres

Old Fort Niagara, a popular historic tourist destination on Lake Ontario, is the oldest structure in the Great Lakes region

# Western New York State Parks and Historic Sites

## Western New York Annual Attendance at Flagship Parks & Historic Sites

### Allegany Region

Allegany 1,436,097  
*Quaker and Red House Areas*

### Niagara Region

Niagara Falls 8,274,942  
Ft. Niagara 275,917  
Artpark 194,175  
Beaver Island 291,014  
Whirlpool 221,223  
Darwin Martin House 21,058

Total attendance at the regions' 24 parks and historic sites  
11,913,624

## Economic Impact

An economic impact study\* showed that in 2008-09, more than 5,500 jobs were created and more than \$600 million in local economic activity was generated by State Parks activity in the Western Region.

## Quality of Life

The recreational and natural resources created by the area's parks and historic sites benefit this region by:

- Maintaining the state's ecosystem and biodiversity
- Providing opportunities for recreation
- Reducing the negative effects from pollution
- Improving health outcomes
- Preserving areas of historic importance
- Influencing business location decisions by making the community a better place to live

\*Source, *The NYS Park System: An Economic Asset to the Empire State*. Political Economy Research Institute, Univ. of Mass, Amherst, March, 2009

# Western New York State Parks and Historic Sites

## Regional Capital Needs

The backlog of capital projects in the Niagara and Allegany Regions is estimated to exceed \$218 million

### High Impact Projects Include\*

<u>Park/Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Niagara Falls State Park Replace Goat Island Pedestrian Bridge	\$25 million
Allegany Quaker Area Replace drinking water system	\$6.5 million
Fort Niagara State Park Reconstruct pool and bathhouse complex <i>including code compliance</i>	\$5.5 million
Allegany Red House Area Rehabilitate heavily used bikeway	\$1.5 million

*\*Complete list of projects attached*