



**New York State: Ever Upward
2017 State of the State
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**

Excerpts from Governor's "Excelsior, Ever Upward" report:

Enclosed: Pages 104-106

Proposal: Create Master Plan for “Gateway to the Adirondacks” at Northway Exit 29 in North Hudson

The Frontier Town theme park was built in the Adirondacks in 1952. For more than four decades, this entertainment destination was a boon to the local economy, drawing visitors from across the country to the Town of North Hudson. But since 1998 when the theme park was closed, this site at Exit 29 of the Northway has sat dormant. As a result, local jobs, restaurants and lodging have all but disappeared from this once thriving Adirondack community.

In 2016, recognizing a critical need to invigorate the economies of these Adirondack communities, Governor Cuomo challenged the Open Space Institute and five neighboring Adirondack towns to collaborate with the State to design a blueprint for a new recreation hub at this location. In 2017, that challenge will be met and a new world-class recreational experience will be

realized through the establishment of state, local and private partnerships led by Governor Cuomo to invest up to \$32 million to create the Gateway to the Adirondacks.

The new hub will include:

- A DEC campground and day use area along the Schroon River ;
- An equestrian camping and trail riding area, similar to DEC equestrian camping and riding facilities at Otter Creek and Brookfield, which are draw visitors from throughout the eastern United States;
- A Visitor Information Center to introduce visitors to the world class recreational opportunities in the Adirondack Park;
- An Event Center with tourist accommodations and facilities for hosting shows and festivals;
- Interactive exhibits in historic structures highlighting the past, present, and future of the Adirondack forest products and local food industries; and
- Areas designated for commercial business development including those which provide food, lodging and amenities for visitors and those which can grow at this strategic location along the Northway corridor.

As a first step, the Department of Environmental Conservation will acquire a conservation easement on approximately 300 acres of land with support from the Environmental Protection Fund. This will allow construction of the public and equestrian camping and

day use areas. Paradox Brewery will also be investing \$2.8 million to expand its operations at the site thanks in part to \$200,000 in incentives from the Empire State Development Corporation.

Governor Cuomo's goal is to promote and increase the economic vitality of the towns connected to this North Hudson location. Transforming this site into an attractive destination will link local and regional resources and provide year round recreation opportunities and services for multiple uses, users and businesses. The Gateway site will welcome, orient and connect visitors to trail networks, recreation destinations and businesses in the Adirondack Park. Drawing visitors to North Hudson to connect with premier opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and boating. This, coupled with commercial business development, will revitalize communities and help transform this region.