

ADK Supports S1145 and A4074 Conservation Development Design in the Adirondack Park

Bills: S1145 by Senator Kaminsky, and A4074 by Assembly Member Englebright

Summary: Relates to preserving ecological integrity, wildlife and open space in the Adirondack park; strengthens land use and development provisions in the Adirondack park so as to curtail rural sprawl.

This legislation would strengthen the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan by incorporating modern conservation design principles that help curtail development sprawl in rural areas.

This legislation provides for Conservation Subdivisions (CSD) in the Adirondack Park. CSDs are designs that protect sensitive areas and open space for ecological integrity, and quality of life for subdivision residents. CSDs are designed according to site-specific ecological preservation and forest stewardship plans which are prepared by qualified experts. Based on a detailed study of a project site, the plans guide site project design. A CSD also conserves, by a deed restriction or restrictive covenant, a significant portion of a tract of land in contiguous and intact open space following the site's ecological preservation and forest stewardship plan. These sensible plans preserve cultural and natural features to provide, in essence, residential parks for the members of a subdivision community.

The benefits of Conservation Subdivision are many, including water quality and wildlife habitat protection, excellent financial performance, increased quality of life, reduced sprawl, reduced infrastructure construction costs, reduced maintenance costs, reduced demand for publicly funded greenspace, and an additional means for expanding public trails and greenways.

This legislation will serve to help update conservation practice in the Adirondack Park and is essential to fulfilling the intent of the Adirondack Park Land Use Development Plan that was drafted 40 years ago.

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club)

ADK works to protect New York's wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates. Based out of the Adirondack Park in New York State, ADK is a leader in providing outdoor education, promoting responsible recreation, and organizing stewardship experiences. Since 1922, the organization has worked to increase access to the backcountry by building trails, conserving natural areas, and developing a stewardship community that supports ethical and safe use of New York's outdoor spaces. A member and volunteer-supported organization, ADK reaches across New York through its 30,000 members and 27 chapters to inspire people to enjoy the outdoors ethically.