



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY IN 2024

February 13, 2025

OVERVIEW

- 2024 Takeaways
- Key Statistics
- Looking Forward

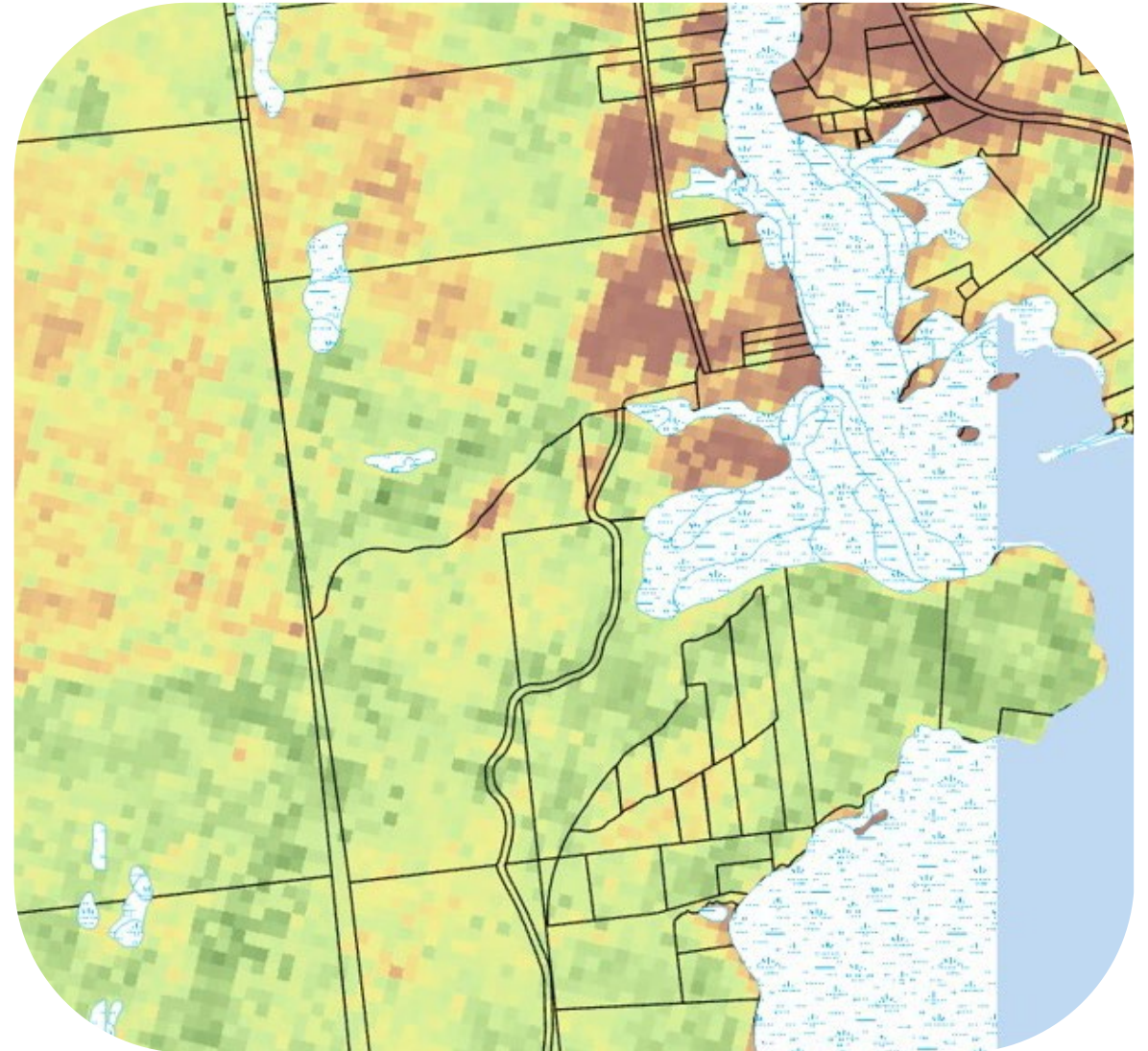


TAKEAWAYS

Collaborative, science-based approaches are critical to addressing environmental challenges.

MAPPING FOREST CARBON

- Aid staff in identifying areas where solar energy development may be suitable by highlighting land cover that has high carbon sequestration or storage value.



MAPPING DEEPWATER MARSHES



- Monitor ecological changes, assist with managing aquatic invasive species, and protect habitat from degradation, ensuring sustainable natural resource management in the Park.

**Maximizing public
engagement is essential for
the future.**

PUBLIC LANDS FOR ALL

- Started year with Classification Package, led into SLMP amendments.
- Robust public engagement with hearings.
- Received over **1,200** public comments
- Underscores value of the process to the Agency.



ADIRONDACK PLANNING FORUM

- Over 250 attendees at the 2024 Adirondack Planning Forum
- Brought together stakeholders to learn about and find solutions to the Park's biggest issues



IMPROVING DIGITAL OUTREACH



- Addressed core goals of 2021 Transparency Initiative
- Established consistent social media outreach – Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn
- Gained 1,500 followers in 2024; 6,500 total
- Internal working group redesigning website to better support the public

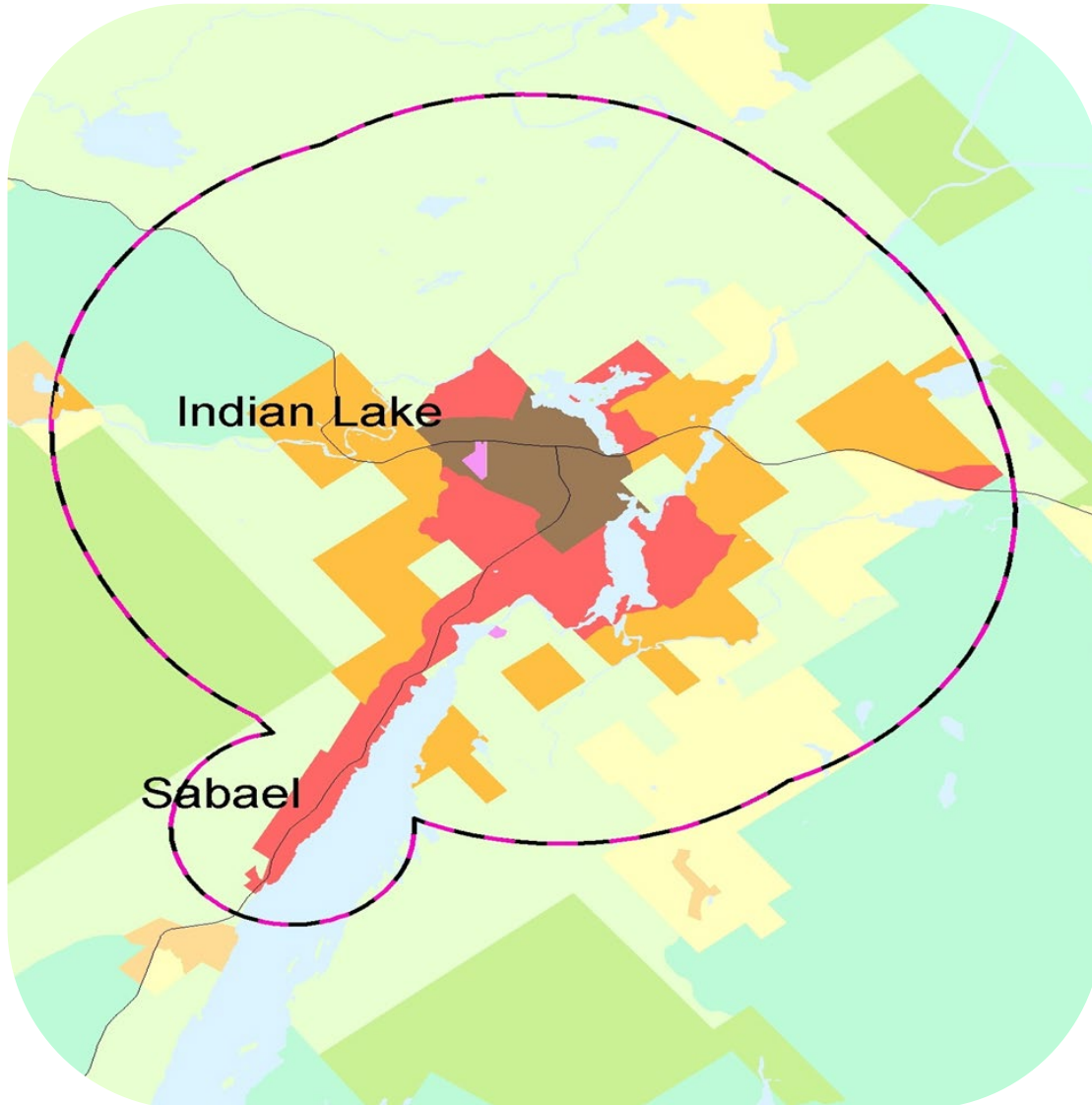
**Park communities are facing
major challenges—and key
state programs can help.**

LISTENING TO COMMUNITIES

- Met with local leadership throughout the year.
- Key concerns included community wastewater, flood recovery, and planning and technical assistance.
- Agency helped promote NY Forward, DRI, and Pro-Housing Community Program.



COMMUNITY HOUSING MAP



- Visualizes potential opportunities for community housing density bonus.
- Overlay Agency mapping data layers to assist communities, developers and NGOs in conducting housing analysis.
- Supports efforts to address need for more community housing.

**The Adirondack Park is full
of inspiring, expert voices.**

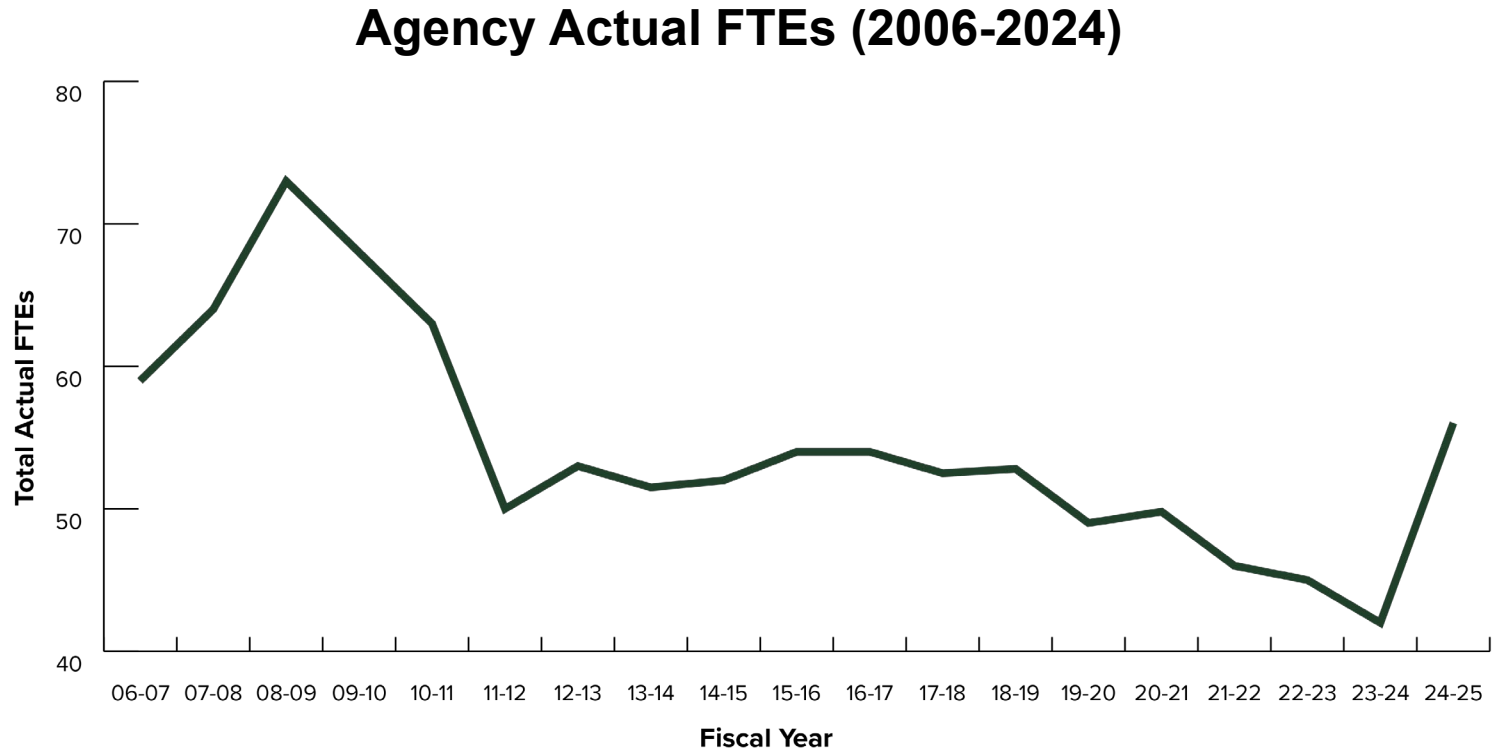
2024 SPEAKER SERIES



KEY STATISTICS

STAFFING

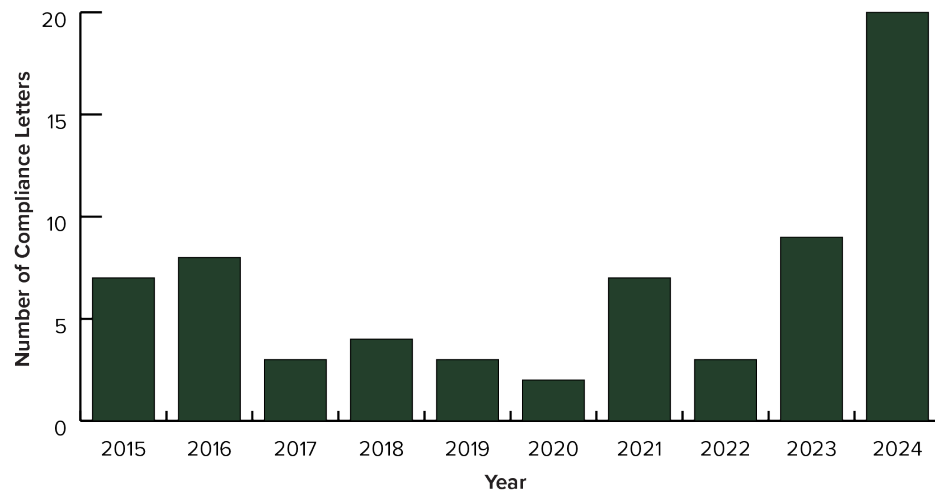
- **30% staffing increase in two years.**
- Reversing a nearly two-decade decline.
- Additions and promotions in all divisions.
- Aiming for 59 FTEs in 2025.



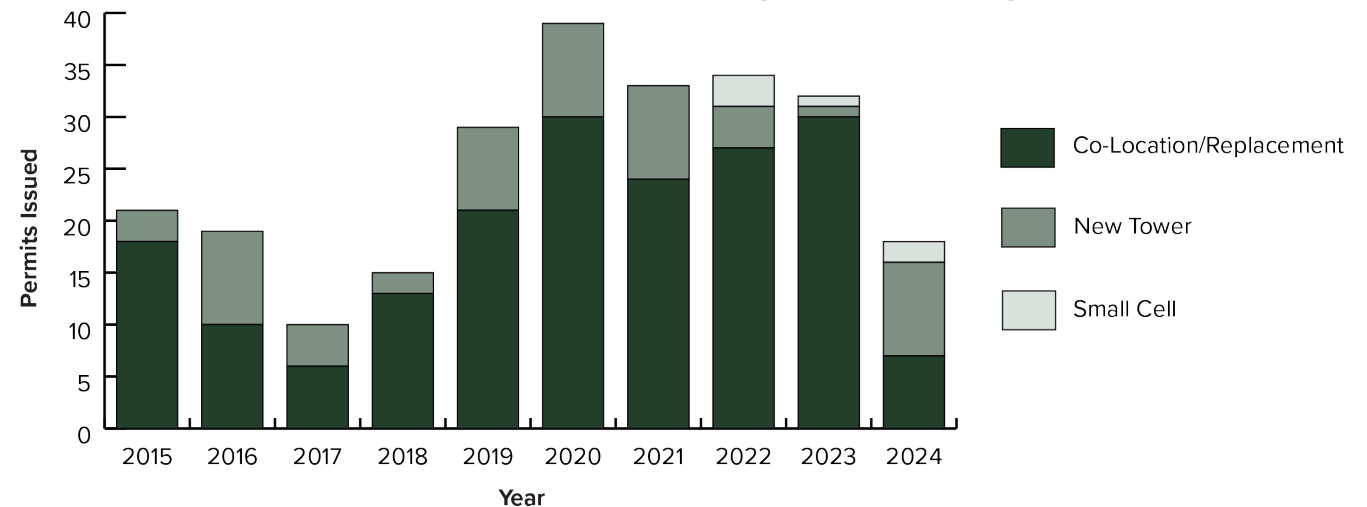
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Increased telecommunication coverage in 2024 with continued uptick in Small Cell Technology.
- General Permit 2023G-1 streamlines collocation.
- To date, the Agency has successfully approved 590 permits for telecommunication projects.

Compliance Letters Issued (2015-2024)

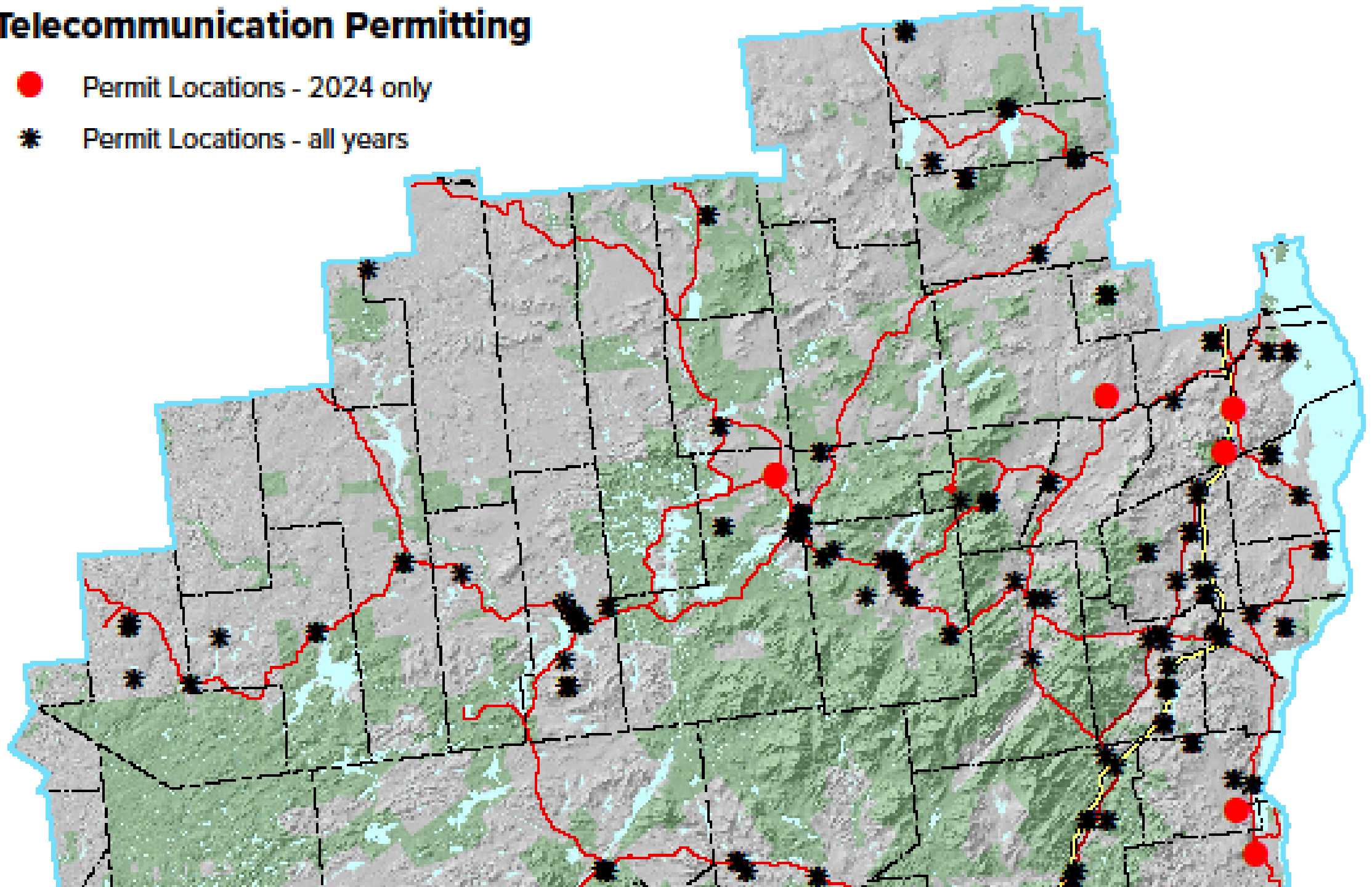


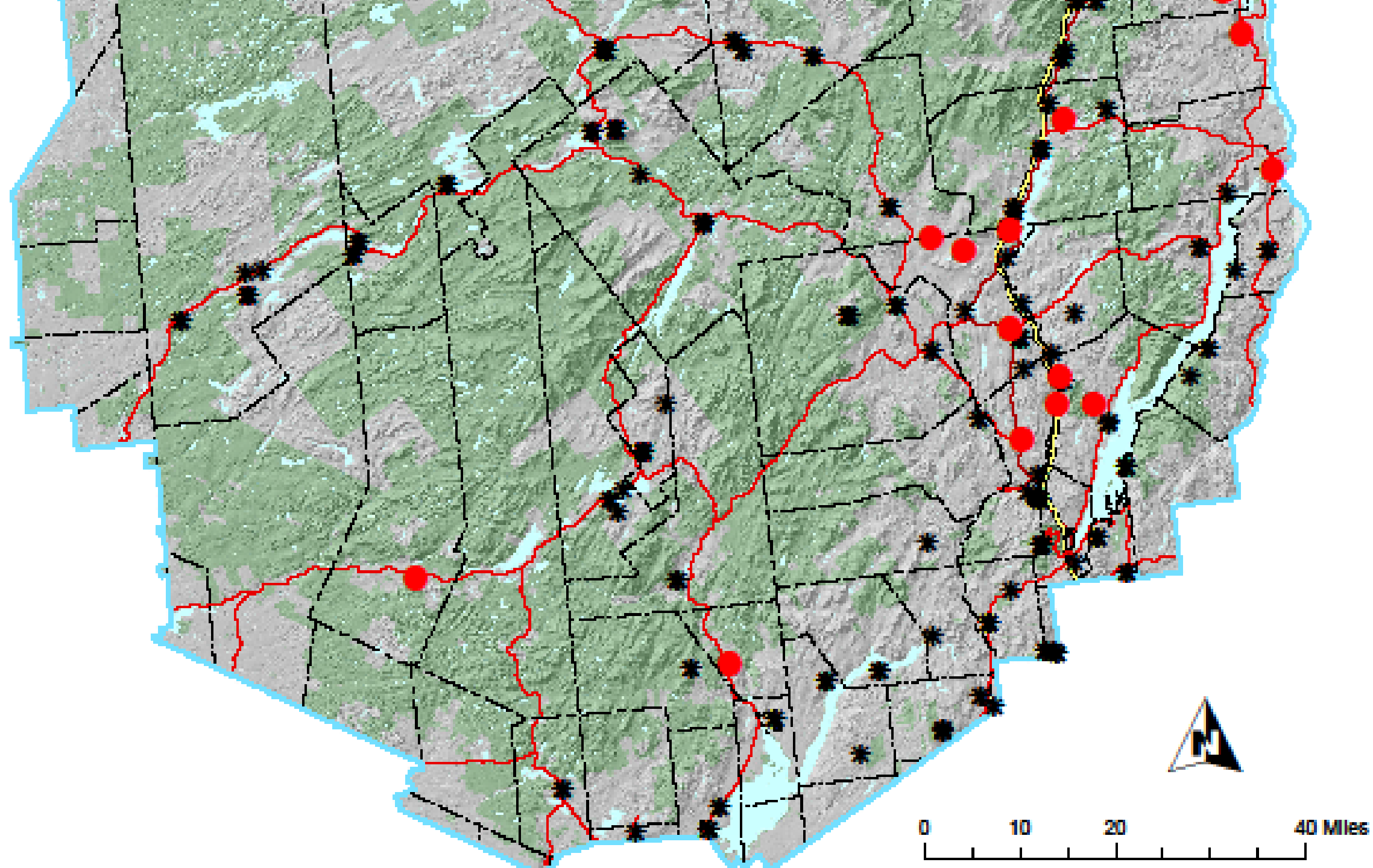
Telecom Permits Issued (2015-2024)



Telecommunication Permitting

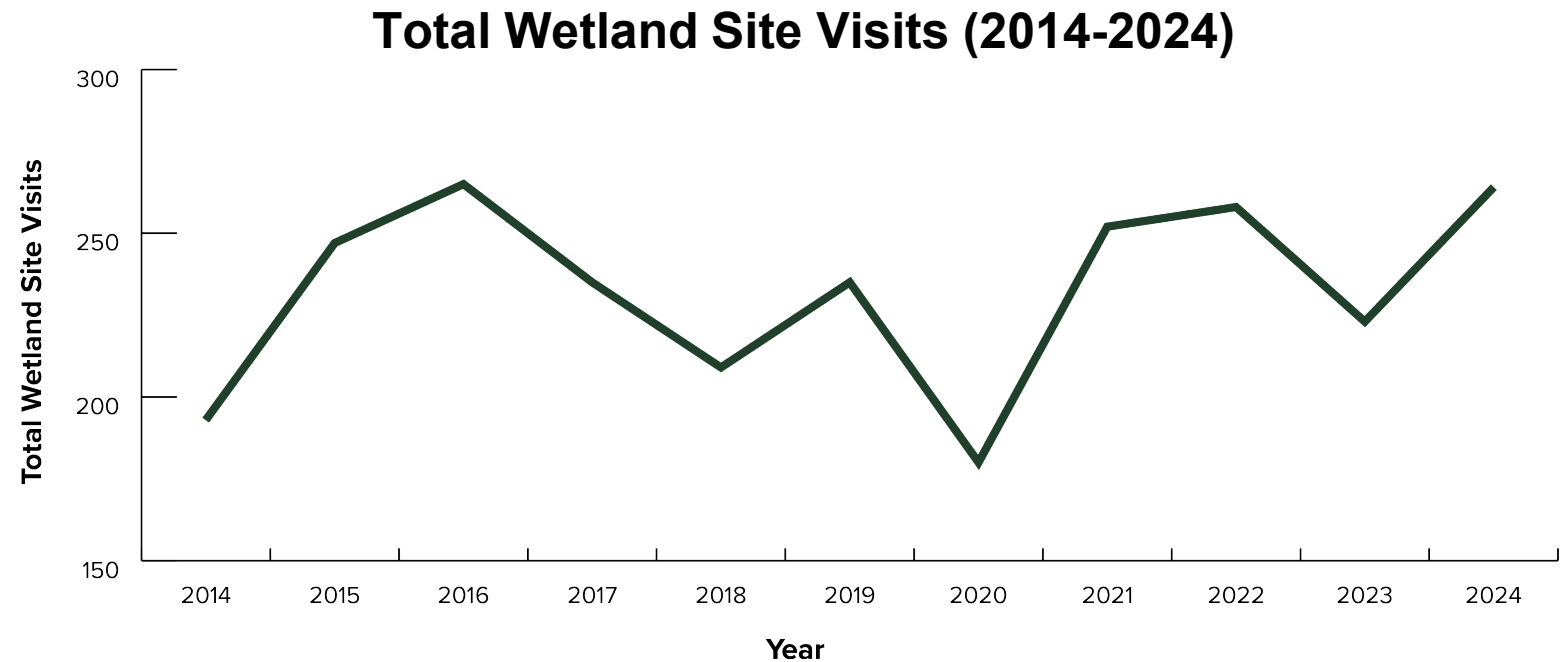
- Permit Locations - 2024 only
- * Permit Locations - all years





WETLANDS

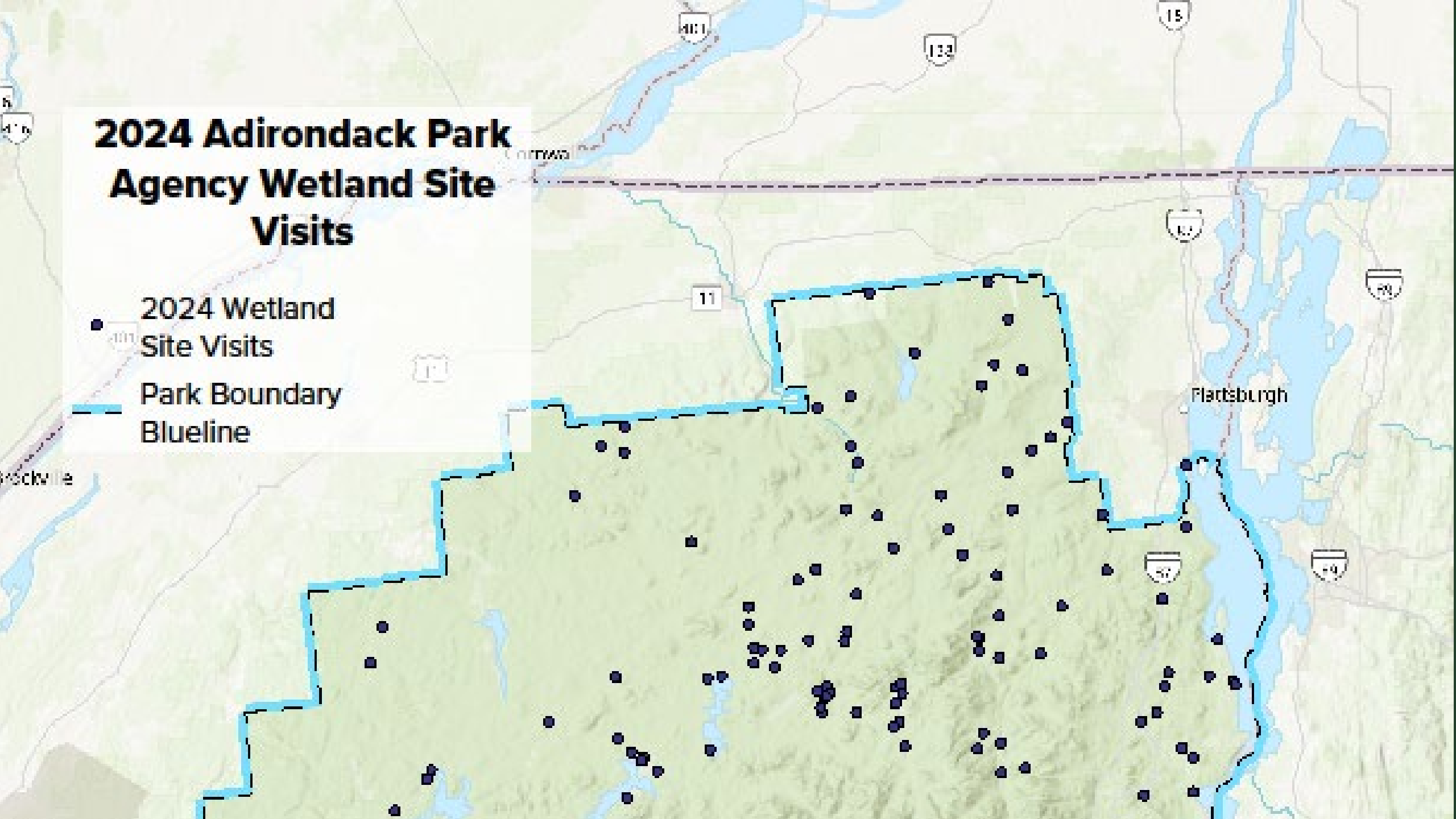
- Highest year for wetland site visits since 2016.
- This was in addition to desktop reviews and other forms of support.

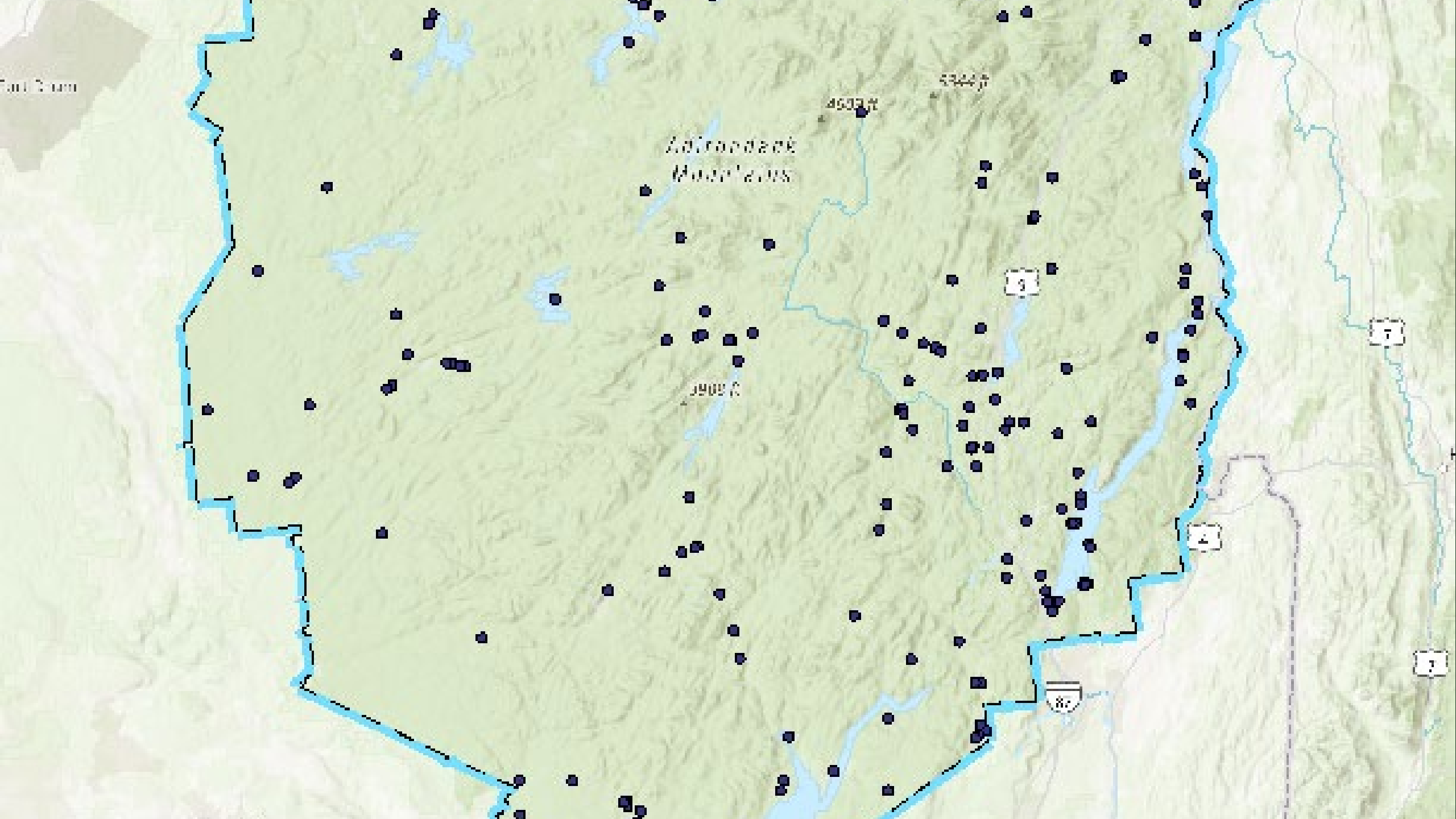


2024 Adirondack Park Agency Wetland Site Visits

2024 Wetland
Site Visits

Park Boundary
Blueline





PERMITTING

- Over 3x increase in Emergency Authorizations— from 9 to 30.
- Climate change drive-storms increasing in frequency and severity.
- Allows communities to immediately address storm impacts

PERMITS ISSUED	2023	2024
Minor Projects	76	93
Major Projects	87	87
Variances	9	4
State Agency Orders	0	1
Amendments/ Renewals	35	35
General Permits	81	63
Emergency Authorizations	9	30

MAJOR PROJECT CATEGORY	2023	2024
Subdivision	20	19
Single Family Dwelling	3	1
Wetlands	18	22
Commerical Use	17	10
Tower/ Telecom	41	18
Timber Harvest	0	2
Solar	3	2

ENFORCEMENT

- Nearly doubled settlement agreements signed.
- Increased voluntary compliance by 30%
- The majority of enforcement cases involved wetlands and shorelines.
- A new process for permit compliance has supported these outcomes.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY	2022	2023	2024
New Cases Opened	142	162	166
Settlement Agreements Signed	17	17	30
Cases Closed, Voluntary Compliance	8	19	27
Cases Closed, No Violation	55	46	77
Open Cases End of Year	345	358	323

JURISDICTIONAL INQUIRIES

- Increase in JIF inquiries from 1,158 to 1,239
- Staff reduced average response time by 2 days (7 to 5).

JURISDICTIONAL INQUIRY ACTIVITIES	2023	2024
JIFs Received	1,158	1,239
JIFs Responded To	1,062	1,194
<i>Non-Jurisdictional</i>	782	798
<i>Jurisdictional</i>	202	301
<i>Variance</i>	29	29
<i>General Information</i>	35	49
<i>Potential Violation</i>	14	17
Avg. Response Time (Days)	7	5

LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue to focus our efforts on science-based decision making, maximizing public engagement, and supporting the communities of the Park.





**Adirondack
Park Agency**