

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Office Locations

General Description

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created on July 1, 1970 to combine in a single agency all state programs designed to protect and enhance the environment.

The agency is headed by a commissioner and assisted by executive managers. The department has 24 divisions and offices. DEC's Central Office is in Albany. Each of DEC's nine regions has an office that serves the communities within that region.

Region 1: (**Long Island**) Nassau and Suffolk counties

Region 2: (**New York City**) Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island

Region 3: (**Lower Hudson Valley**) Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties

Region 4: (**Capital Region/Northern Catskills**) Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Schoharie counties

Region 5: (**Eastern Adirondacks/Lake Champlain**) Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties

Region 6: (**Western Adirondacks/Eastern Lake Ontario**) Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and St. Lawrence counties

Region 7: (**Central New York**) Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga and Tompkins counties

Region 8: (**Western Finger Lakes**) Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates counties

Region 9: (**Western New York**) Allegany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming counties

Facility Description

Campground: DEC operates campgrounds located in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks which provide a wide variety of experiences, including island camping, tent and trailer camping, boat launching facilities, hiking trails, beaches and day use areas with picnic tables and grills.

Central Office/Headquarters: The DEC Central Office serves as the main headquarters. At this location, you will find most offices of the divisions and special programs, as well as offices that provide executive, administrative, general counsel, communications and public protection functions. The Central Office should be contacted for general questions about DEC policies and regulations.

Day Use Area: DEC operates a number of day-use-only areas that offer picnic areas and/or swimming facilities.

Education Camp: DEC camps combine environmental education, sportsman education and outdoor skills using a fun, hands-on approach to teach about the environment with a goal to develop a life-long passion for nature and dedication to stewardship of our natural resources.

Education Center: DEC's education centers offer classes and programs on environmental awareness. Each center has interpretive trails, exhibit areas and meeting rooms and offers family events all year round.

Estuarine Research Center: Our DEC estuarine research center serves as a field laboratory for estuarine research, stewardship and education. Staff conduct estuarine research studies of physical, biological and chemical characterizations; ecosystem processes; and exchanges between wetlands and the Hudson River's main stem. They hold many public events and workshops.

Field Office: Small office used by DEC staff who are working remotely from the regional office or sub-office or are working on special projects.

Fish Hatchery: DEC hatcheries produce fish for stocking in public waters across the state. All hatcheries are open to the public from spring through fall, and several are open year-round.

Game Farm: DEC's game farm raises pheasants and then releases them just prior to and during the fall pheasant hunting season. These releases occur across the state on both state and private lands open to public hunting. DEC offers specially designated Youth Pheasant Hunts.

Maintenance Center: The DEC maintenance centers service vehicles and equipment and also include construction trade shops. Some of the maintenance centers also include small offices.

Marine Headquarters: DEC's Bureau of Marine Resources is responsible for the management of living marine resources and their habitats within the Marine and Coastal District of New York State.

Regional Headquarters: DEC regional headquarters serve as the center for Department activities to assist and address environmental issues and needs within the regional location. The DEC regional office is the first place to call with specific questions such as how to obtain and renew DEC permits and how to find the best places to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors or to report issues involving environmental problems.

Regional Sub-Office: DEC regional sub-offices assist the regional headquarters and may specialize in specific programs to address the environmental issues for the regional location.

Research Center: The DEC research centers manage fish resources and monitor population and establish effectiveness of stocking and harvesting policies; safeguard fish and wildlife resources through the protection of habitat quality; analyze fish, mammals, birds and invertebrates for a variety of contaminants; provide analytical services, such as water chemistry analyses and testing aquatic toxicity.

Sign Shop: The DEC sign shop provides the signs that are used on DEC lands. These signs range from identifying locations, providing location information, trail markers, accessibility, warning and restriction signs, etc.

Tree Nursery: The DEC nursery program has been an integral part of forest stewardship on public and private lands. The Nursery in Saratoga Springs provides billions of seedlings to be used to enhance and protect the forest resources. DEC provides nursery service at low cost and quality stock that is readily available to the public.

Wildlife Resource Center: DEC's Wildlife Health Unit (WHU) at the Wildlife Resources Center is a part of the Wildlife Health Program that is responsible for handling deceased animals for examining, diagnosing, monitoring and (when needed) controlling the causes of sickness and death in New York State's amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Other duties of the WHU includes: providing forensic wildlife pathology services to DEC's law enforcement and other agencies; performing field investigations related to the impact of environmental contamination (*e.g. oil spills, industrial discharges, pesticide use and misuse, hazardous waste sites and landfills*) on wildlife; and conducting original research in the fields of wildlife pathology, physiology and toxicology.

Data Collection Methodology

The data was compiled using information from DEC's Maintenance Management System database, ArcGIS, Google Earth and DEC's public website.

Statistical and Analytic Issues

None.

Limitations of Data Use

None.