

## **Several Types of Regional Programs Produce Benefits for New York State Communities**

\* **Metropolitan planning organizations** (MPO) are designated by the Governor for every urban area with at least 50,000 residents. New York now has 13 MPOs charged with devising solutions to regional transportation problems through a public planning process.

\* **Soil and Water Conservation Districts** (SWCD) work with municipalities, organizations and landowners to promote the wise use, improvement and maintenance of the soil, water and other natural resources.

\* **Regional Planning Councils** foster coordination among neighboring communities and to provide a regional approach to those concerns crossing local boundaries.

\* **Regional Coastal Management Programs** build on Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs to assess and characterize a region's unique attributes. The programs serve as a tool for local governments and communities to guide human activities across sectors, including areas for concentrated development, recreational access areas, and special natural resource areas.

\* **State Heritage Areas** protect and promote significant historic and natural resources while fostering sustainable economic activity. The 20 Areas, including three multi-county heritage corridors, run on the resources of diverse state, regional, and local partnerships.

\* **Greenways** are innovative state entities created to facilitate the development of a voluntary regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources while encouraging compatible economic development.

\* **Intermunicipal Watershed Organizations** help develop protection and management plans for sustainable watersheds, and include: the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA), the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, THE Lake George Watershed Conference, the Black Creek Watershed Coalition, and the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council.

\***The Tug Hill Commission** provides land-use planning assistance, fundraising assistance, skill development workshops, and conferences to the communities of Tug Hill, a rural and remote region of the state located between Lake Ontario and the Adirondacks.

\* **Estuary Programs** are at the State (Hudson River Estuary Program and the South Shore Estuary Reserve) and federal (Long Island Sound Study, Peconic Estuary Program, and the New York New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program) levels in New York. These programs provide unique partnerships and approaches to conserve and restore natural resources, and promote full public use and enjoyment.