

Access

- * Access improvements for boating and fishing
- * Increasing opportunities for public access
- * Identify (or develop) designated stops along the way for rest, overnight stays, and access to land-based attractions.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy Access, Boat Launches (8/3) • Portages around dams (8/3) • Handicapped fishing access (8/3) • Maintain impoundments (8/3) • Provide minimum flows (8/3) • Waterfalls (8/3) • Whitewater kayaking (8/3) • Access is good in Norwood Lake (8/10) • Provides recreation for residents – fishing, boating, etc. (8/10) • Good swimming access (8/10) • Whitewater releases and the different classes of rapids (8/10) • Campground in Cranberry Lake provides good access (8/17) • Proposal by T/Colton for bridge across Raquette at southern end of Carry Falls (8/17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of easy access (8/3) (8/10) • Excessive demand and usage (8/3) • Conflicting opinions/uses for recreation (8/3), (8/10) • Lack of access to certain areas (8/3) • Lack of camping areas on the lower Raquette (8/3) • Limits created by different seasons: Winter use limited (8/3) • No access between Norwood and Yaleville (8/10) • Carry Falls Reservoir – Visitors pass through but do not stop • Lack of adequate parking (8/10) • Dams interrupt paddling and back up water (8/17) • Lack of public facilities in many local communities (8/17) • Lack of camping facilities in Northern end (8/17) • Access to river difficult – competing interest of property rights • Lack of emphasis on other recreational aspects besides paddling • Lack of knowledge of campsites along dams/reservoirs (8/17)
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic byway designation (8/3) • Connect w/Seaway, Trail Systems, Northern Forest Trail (8/3) • Create Access from Yaleville to Hewitville (8/10) • State land between Raymondville and Massena could be developed in state campsite (8/10) • Whispering Pines – old Girl Scout camp on Blake could be developed into new campsite (8/10) • Adirondack Park Agency – own land along the corridor that can be used for something (campground, day-use facility) (8/10) • Work with private land owners to help improve access (8/10) • Moosehead Rapids is now state owned (8/10) • Year Round Use (8/10) • Places currently ‘off-limits’ that locals have used may be opened up (8/10) • Develop more camping facilities in northern end (8/17) • Develop canoe route from River to Cranberry Lake (8/17) • Offer activities for seasons other than just paddling (8/17) • Cranberry as gateway to the Adks and river as 80% of Cranberry is state-owned (8/17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competing uses/different recreational activities (8/10) • Private land not accessible to public (8/10) • Dams have changed flow of the river in certain areas (8/10) • Liability issues for private land owners as visitors increase (8/10) • Bridge opening up Boreal Forest to ATVs, etc. Issue of balance; UMP being developed (8/17)

Stakeholders define their vision for the future:

I Wish....

- ...We had a description on what to expect from section to section (what you will see, where carries are, etc) (8/10)
- ...We had different types of recreational experiences for all skill levels, fitness levels, and ages (8/10)
- ...We could make the river more accessible in Piercefield and Colton: hiking trails and signage of access points (8/17)
- ...We could build on whitewater release activities (8/17)

What If....

- ...Each municipality offered access to the river (especially for their residents) (8/10)
- ...We evaluated each community’s access to the river (8/10)

We Could...

- ...Develop a guide/program to paddle the entire length of the river (8/10)
- ...Develop strategies that divert people from overused areas to underused areas (8/17)

Promotion

- * Promoting water-based recreation and tourism
- * Marketing the Corridor as a regional attraction

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing website (8/3) Authors and writers promoting river (8/3) Second largest river in New York State (8/3) Recreational Activities – Lakes, reservoirs, beaches (8/3) Educational opportunities (8/3) Long, Diverse corridor (8/10) Major Tourist Attraction (8/10) Diverse Wildlife (8/17) Cultural History of the River (8/17) Natural History of the River (8/17) ‘Living’ history of the river (8/17) Part of the ‘Ten Rivers’ project (8/17) History of logging shared by many communities – Logging in Adks unique (8/17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion only being focused on certain areas, and not on the river as a whole (8/3) Lack of communication to date with Northern Forest Canoe Trail and other river interest groups (8/3) Lack of information on assets (8/3) Lack of lodging, campgrounds and other basic infrastructure (8/3) Lodging that is available can be old/outdated (8/3) Differing perception of diversity/opportunities along the river (8/3) Lack of branding (8/3) Long-distance trails to connect all parts non-existent (8/17) Lack of unified identity (8/17) Raquette River corridor can be difficult for people to envision as a whole (8/17) Narrow tourism niche to be exploited (8/17)
Opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate activities that have appeal to entire river corridor (8/3) Brand river in a way people will recognize (need to get information to affluent market coming into the area) (8/3) Marketable multi-media presentation (8/3) Cooperative marketing of communities along the river (8/3) Target audiences within short distances (‘rubber tire’ mkt.) (8/3) Tourist attraction to SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson (8/10) Connect with the Wild Center in Tupper Lake (8/10) Native American History of the river – Akwesasne (8/10) Promote Fall foliage (8/10); Fly fishing seminars at Stark (8/10) Create unified identity to market corridor as a whole (8/17) Appeal to eco-tourism niche (8/17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brookefield Map: Have Brookefield do additional promotion, collectively market the region (8/17) Expand on 90-miler race – Market as part of the 90 miler: The Raquette River Challenge, Tupper Lake to St. Lawrence. Do the whole thing, or sectionalize (8/17) Best paddling in Sept/Oct – promote fall foliage tours (8/17) Link to branding that people recognize (i.e. Adirondacks) (8/17)
Threats	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competing markets that are in close proximity (8/3) (8/17) Losing Lodging (8/3) Change of perception (8/3) Demand of markets – demand for an area like the corridor decreasing (8/3) 	

Stakeholders define their vision for the future:

I Wish....

- ...We could promote the area for experiential-based outdoor activity (8/3)
- ...We had the support to write about the river (8/3)
- ...We could connect to Canada (8/3)
- ...We could build a Raquette River Museum (8/10)
- ...We develop a web presence (8/10)
- ...We could interest kids and all income levels in paddling, and develop different levels of experiences in paddling (i.e. not always requiring a lot of expense) (8/10)

What If....

- ...We could link different sections by cross promoting (8/17)
- ...We marketed Cranberry Lake as a gateway community to the river, and also as a part of it (8/17)

We Could...

- ...Promote events in river communities with a running theme to tie them together all year (8/3) (8/17)
- ...Develop a ‘passport’ for the river to connect communities – offer discount to attractions, etc. (8/10)
- ...Develop a fall foliage tour for kayakers, paddlers – include lodging packages as part of it (8/10)
- ...Develop a ‘patch system’ for those who paddle the river (8/10) (8/17)
- ...Have a scenic byway designation (8/10)
- ...Develop packages and guided tours for paddlers of different skill levels; Develop timelines for trips (8/17)

Developing Linkages:

- * Potential trail linkages
- * Linkages to downtowns and Main Streets

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Museums can be used as anchor points (8/3) • Multiculturalism: Akwesasne reservation/Universities (8/3) • Diverse Heritage/History – Reflection of historic patterns (8/3) • State Parks, Campgrounds, Hiking Trails (8/3) • History of people settling the corridor; historic places (8/10) • Links three nations together – US, Canada, Akwesasne (8/10) • Can link to Olympic and Seaway Trail (8/10) • Many community events are tied to the river – Regatta (8/10) • Use of river by colleges – SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson, Skidmore SUNY Cortland, SU, etc. (8/10) • Some snowmobile trails (8/10) • V of Potsdam effort to establish canoe trail to lead paddlers into Village of Potsdam and Norwood (8/10) • Three Rivers – Raquette, Grass, and St. Regis (8/10) • Many museums along the river – big and small (8/17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not very well connected to the history of the river (8/10) • Lack of outfitters in Potsdam area (8/10) • Lack of places to rent canoes, etc, get supplies, facilities (8/17)
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link river to downtown river trails from Potsdam to Norwood (Potsdam has 5 ½ acres open space in downtown) (8/10) • Develop canoe rental businesses, services for tourists & river users (8/17) • Educational use of the river – reach out to schools, museums (8/17) • Bob Frenette has active canoe business that could be developed; Maxfields in Potsdam (8/17) • In Massena, take down abandoned buildings that hide the river (8/17) • Architecture along the river – Adirondack, Potsdam Sandstone (8/17) • Connector to Seaway and Olympic Trail (8/17) • Old military road from Chestertown to communities along the river – Link to war of 1812 (8/17) 	<p>(None Expressed)</p>

Stakeholders define their vision for the future:

I Wish....

- ...We could work on a plan on how to bring modern lodging facilities to corridor (8/10)
- ...The Revitalization Plan could focus the development of modern facilities (8/10)
- ...There was some way to build an exhibit that discussed the power of the river – interpretive/traveling exhibit (8/10)

What If....

- ...We had a traveling exhibit that could go to different schools (and they could contribute to it as well?) (8/10)
- ...We were able to connect the river to Clarkson’s developing pedestrian and bike trail (from the University to Potsdam) and create a trail along the river (include cross-country skiing) (8/17)

We Could...

- ...Develop an architectural trail (8/10)
- ...Connect the river through birding trails, paddling, hiking trails, etc. This would help generate funding, especially if connected with Saranac Lake, Potsdam, and other communities along the river (4 responses)
- ...Develop a Raquette River hiking trail (8/17)
- ...Establish a birding trail along the whole corridor (include Cranberry Lake) (8/17)

Directional and Interpretive Signage

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seaway Trail Signs (8/10) Carrey Falls, Stark and Blake have good signage (8/10) Brookefield Power – Marks its trails, dams, etc. in the areas they own (8/10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism of signs, lean-to's, etc. (8/3) Lack of knowledge of history/heritage of the river (8/3) Lack of signage from Highway to River (8/10) Lack of information/resources as to how the different cultures used the river (8/10) Lack of signage indicating reservoirs from S. Colton to Seves Corners (8/10) Lack of social infrastructure in many communities along the river (i.e. no where to get a cup of coffee, no public restrooms, etc) (8/10) Smaller museums and interpretive centers along the river do not reach out to visitors (8/10) Little information available on Piercefield north (8/10) Difficult to find day-use areas: lack of signage, lack of info to direct people to them (8/17) From Route 56 to Colton, nothing to indicate reservoirs are there (lack of signage) (8/17) People always track on Rte 56 and not road along reservoirs (8/17) Lack of knowledge of campsites along dams/reservoirs (8/17)
Opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimodel interdependency to compliment scenic byways (8/3) Create information kiosks with public information (8/3) 	
Threats	
(None Expressed)	

Stakeholders define their vision for the future:

I Wish....

- ...We had a description on what to expect from section to section (what you will see, where carries are, etc) (8/3)
- ...More people would play outside (8/10)
- ...more people could paddle the entire 174 miles of the river (8/10)
- ...We had a comprehensive mapping system – all groups need to meet in the same room; connect with other people doing the same thing (8/10)

What If....

- ...Industries along the river would fund a blueway trail travel guide (8/10)
- ...Portages were marked by signs that were sponsored by business and promoted their businesses (8/10)

We Could...

- ...Create a map similar to Lake to Locks (8/3)
- ...Explore the opportunities connecting the corridor to the road (8/3)
- ...Build on what Mike Prescott is doing (See Page 3) to create a marketable product (8/3)
- ...Develop a map highlighting the different communities' history of the river (8/3).
- ...Make a map of the river that has all types of different paddles – short, long, rough water, etc. and rank the paddles (8/10)
- ...Have more information available about the river (8/10)
- ...put up signs to direct people to access points and other points of interest/commerce along the river (8/10)
- ...Create information kiosk at areas of access – include locations of interests and local businesses (8/10)
- ...Put signs up that direct from place to place (i.e. Green St. to Smith St., Carrey Falls is this way, and you can get to Point B from Carrey Falls) (8/10)

Inter-Municipal Connections

* Emphasizing intermunicipal efforts with a high degree of private participation

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local recreational and planning departments (8/3) Property Associations – Norwood Lake, Higley Flow, Raquette Lake (8/10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of involvement/participation from Akwesasne (8/3) Cultural differences between Akwesasne and US communities along the river (8/3) Lack of involvement from communities in Southern end (8/17) Culturally, people who live in Clifton-Fine and surrounding areas on the Southern end do not feel a connection to other parts of the river (8/17)
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create shared vision among communities along the river (8/3) LWRP Plans for each community (8/10) Northern Flow Rivers Plan to address common problems – regional planning popular in Albany (\$ to develop Blueway Trails) (8/10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic change (8/3) Change in property owners(8/3) Increase in second home owners (8/3) High taxes on waterfront property (8/10) Lack of funding opportunities (8/10) Over development; over use in certain sections (8/17) Lack of financial commitment to build services (8/17) Potential conflict between tourists and locals (8/17)

Stakeholders define their vision for the future:

I Wish....

...Resources to do some archeological work (i.e. Native American history) (8/3)

...More people understood Raquette River as a resource for the area and interconnectedness of environment and economy (8/10)

...Different river corridors could work together to develop and overall plan (8/10)

What If....

...We had a coordinator for all communities (someone to: write grants, attend workshops, update website, etc.) (8/3)

We Could...

...Have discussions with people who use, view and live on the river now to make sure they are aware of what's going on (so they have a say in the plan) (8/10)

Environmental Stewardship

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Beauty (8/3) (8/10) Wildlife Diversity (8/3) Rare, endangered species along the river (flora and fauna) (8/3) Seasons – Variety and appeal (8/3) Designation as a Park (8/3) Serene Setting (8/3) Source of Water (8/10) Clean River (8/10) Eagle habitat on the river (8/10) Diverse Bird Population (8/10) Wildlife Conservation Society community information centers program (8/10) Diverse geology and geologic history (8/10) Guides in Adk areas (8/10) The Wild Center (8/10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality (8/3) Lack of sewage/wastewater facilities in certain areas (8/3) Lack of oversight organization for watershed (8/3) Multiple jurisdictions of environmental organizations (8/3) Danger of varying water levels (8/3) Perception that you are unable to do anything in APA (8/10) Brownfield properties surround some areas (8/10) Altering of river by hydro's not very inviting (8/10)
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NY Chapter Geological Society of America conference at SUNY Potsdam (8/10) Geo caching becoming popular activity (8/10) Resources available from the NYS DEC, DOT, DOS (8/3) Share knowledge of river (8/17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive Species (8/3) (8/17) Overuse (8/3) (8/10) Environmental Lobby – APA? (8/3) Bathrooms next to water – sewage issues (8/10) Economic impact of development (8/10) APA regulations may interfere with development (8/10) Sewage problem in northern end, especially big runoff. Long Lake has new sewer; Higley Flow has septic (8/17) Over development; over use in certain sections (8/17) Litter could be a problem if we do not promote carry-in, carry-out for trash (8/17) Need to promote an ethic of how to treat our land; enjoy it, but leave no trace you were here. (8/17)

Stakeholders define their vision for the future:

I Wish....

- ...We had a better understanding of carrying capacity (8/3)
- ...That whatever develops is done a scale relative to the region (8/17)
- ...We had more solid, reliable, and comprehensive data available about the river (8/17)

We Could...

- ...Provide education to the public on how to live with the land, river, and wildlife without overdeveloping. (8/17)
- ...Develop a code of ethics for using the river (8/17)
- ...Take a watershed perspective that connects land and water (8/10)