

Workgroup 12: Zoe Smith

Small and affordable schools

Vision Excerpts

We strengthen our communities, centered in hamlets and villages that work collaboratively across the Park and are more dynamic and welcoming of new comers. Part-time and full-time residents work together to enrich hamlet life. Our small, networked, high quality schools give students a strong understanding of this unique place where they are growing up.

Our core vision is of interdependent yet self-reliant communities that:

- *Strongly support their fine local schools* that are networked using broadband services to maintain high academic standards while finding ways to lower costs

The source of our strength is a diverse economy based on these pillars:

- *Strong, growing educational institutions* that are the nexus of entrepreneurial business development in the region. More effective small business assistance in the form of venture and other funding including loan guarantees are part of the revival.

We move in small but steady steps toward more efficient government that strikes the right balance between centralization for efficiency and local responsiveness; *government that works together across levels and functions and that partners well with community groups and NGOs*; and government that *uses modern technology well* to overcome the large distances in the Park and be more data-centric. This will be a period of *gradual consolidation and downsizing* for all levels of government as hard choices have to be made about where to put public dollars. Smart downsizing through increased collaboration, sharing of functions and elimination of overlap will proceed at all levels, forced by limits on tax revenues.

Handing This Special Place Off to the Next Generation

Our vision is not just for aging boomers. It's also aimed at the next generation that will inherit this special place. A strong commitment to education is part of our plan, education in the unique attributes of this landscape; education and outreach that extends to students throughout New York State, ensuring that children growing up today hold the values of environmental stewardship and protection of the wild.

Of greatest impact in the end will be the investment in sustainable communities.

Events

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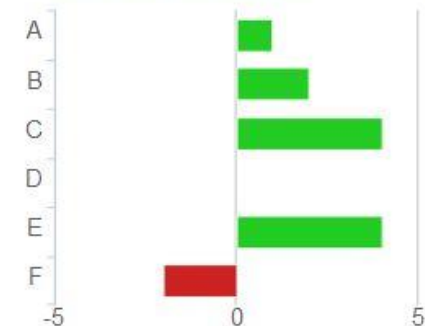
2022 : Demographics

2 Comments

Broadband Brings More Mid-Career Families into the Park

People around 40 with young children move to the Park as broadband allows them to bring their job with them or enables the startup of new small businesses. For most, they do give up some income relative to what they could earn in cities, but it is cheaper to live here, they want less stress, community life and small schools for their children. They are generally well educated and bring new financial and intellectual horsepower to the Park. Broadband has changed the Park's workforce demographics.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Keene Broadband Attracts New Family, Teleworkers

Article highlights a family moving to Keene because of the Town's broadband, just as was hoped for by the project organizers.

[Read the news article here.](#)

School Enrollments Mostly Steady

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Greater Diversity Appearing in Schools

North Country Community College and Paul Smiths try hard to attract diverse students. There has been a major effort to broaden the diversity in the programs that train future foresters, rangers and environmental scientists. Now, 20% of Students in NYS Environmental and Ranger Schools are nonwhite. The Newcomb School has a well known large international high school program. Keene and Indian Lake run smaller programs. They are being copied all over the Park.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

NYC Poverty @21.3%, White's are 33% of Population

The poverty rate in NYC is 21.3% and if you add "near poverty" it jumps to 45.8%. Of the City population, 33.3% is white. The article suggests these numbers are the NYS future.

[Read the news article here.](#)

[Read the report behind the article here.](#)

Paul Smith's in a Free-Tuition Program for Inner City Schools

Newcomb School Welcomes Lots of Foreign Students

Keene Welcomes 6 International High School Students 2013

State spends a million on Camp Colby

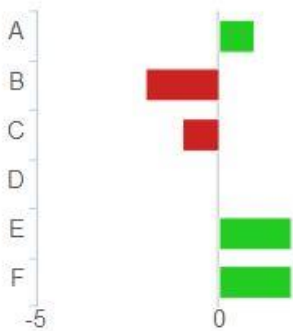
2037 : Demographics

1 Comments

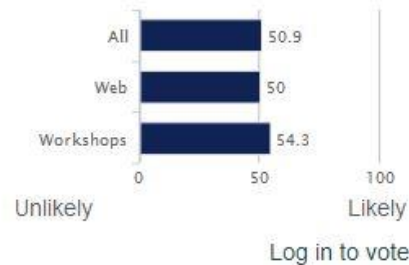
Hamilton County Population Drops Below 3000

As predicted in a 2012 Cornell University Study on Applied Demographics, the population of Hamilton County has continued to decline and now is below 3000 permanent residents with fewer than 100 in the 25-29 year old range. All the predicted problems attend this drop; school enrollment declines and lack of EMT volunteers, etc.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Another Report Shows Projected Population Declines

The report has good historic data and forecasts a population decline of 12% or so by 2030 if we don't do anything. Of course, there are a lot of efforts to counter this trend.

[Read the report here.](#)

Kansas Program Pays People to Move to Rural Areas

ADK Demographics Mirror Rural National Trends

Hamilton and Essex lose population 2010-12

[Log in to add evidence](#)

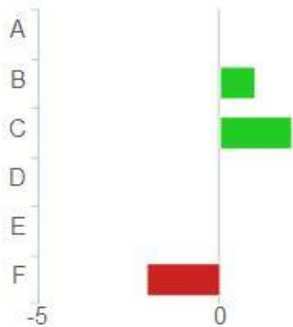
2020 : Demographics

1 Comments

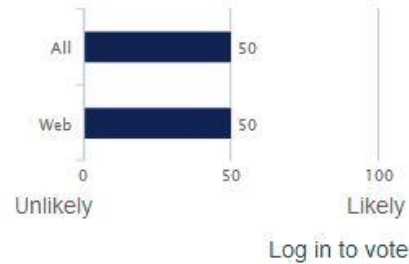
Non-White Population in Essex County Hits 10%

Slowly, more non-whites are moving into the region. In 2012, only 5.2% of the Essex County population was non-white. Now 8 years later it has doubled.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Interesting Update on Refugees in Vermont

Vermont has brought 6300 refugees to the state over 25 years and this article updates how they are doing.

[Read the article here.](#)

Diversity Issue Taken up by Columnist

Great Site for Demographic Data by County

[Log in to add evidence](#)

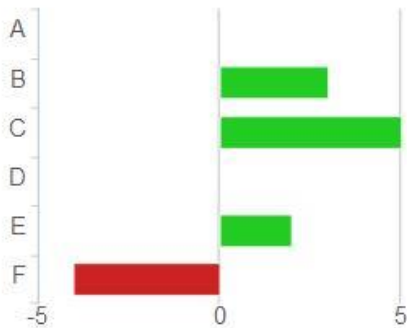
2027 : Demographics

2 Comments

Number of Children in Region Rises

For the first time in decades, the number of children living in the region has ticked up slightly.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Keene Central School to welcome largest kindergarten in years

There were 20 children in the entering kindergarten at Keene Central this year, and it will also have the smallest graduating class in years, only 6, so the school population will increase by 16 just by this change added almost 10% to the student population.

A link to the schools web site is here.

Log in to add evidence

2022 : Education

0 Comments

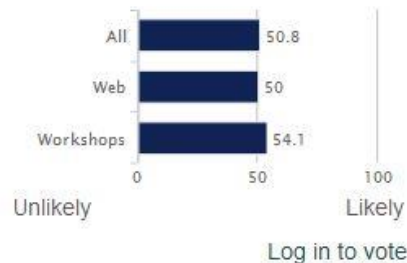
Environmental and Entrepreneurial Studies Widespread

Most high schools in the Park adopt two common programs – one in environmental studies and the other in entrepreneurial studies. In many cases there are collaborations with regional colleges.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



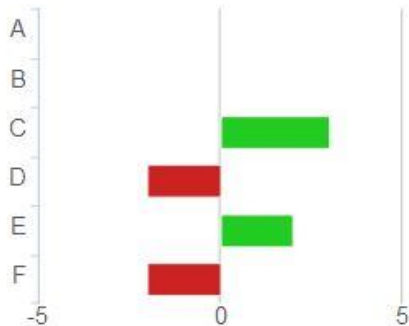
Evidence

Log in to add evidence

High Quality Park Schools Attract Students from Neighboring Districts

The advent of standardized State-wide testing has led to objective evidence that some of the Park's small schools are really good. The best schools (Keene, Newcomb, Minerva) are able to attract students from neighboring districts and keep their enrollments up. The race for quality is part of the strategy for survival of a small town's school.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

NYCAN school ranking data shows 5 Park high schools near the top

The rankings suggest small Adirondack school students can do very well academically in state-wide rankings, especially the high schools.

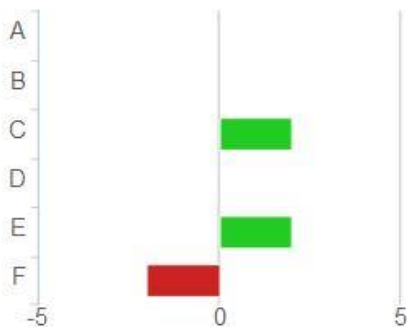
You can look up these rankings yourself [here](#).

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Many School Districts Attracting Students from Outside Park

Newcomb is famous for launching a successful foreign student program. Now there 5-10 new programs. Most have some unusual angle. One school might be very strong in environmental science. Another might have an art, music or theater focus. Another focuses on students of a particular language. Ties to the top rank public schools in big cities with a similar focus are common. School safety is a selling point. The Adk schools have money, facilities and expertise. What they all need are diversity and larger student populations.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

2013-14 school enrollments mostly steady

2014-14 school enrollments are mostly steady

[Read a news story about 2013 enrollments here](#)

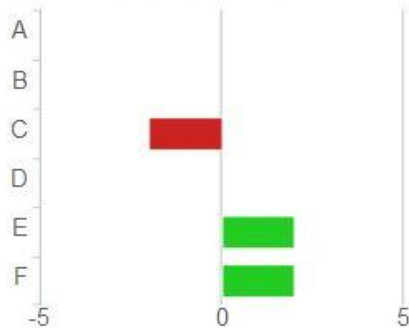
Keene Central School welcomes 6 international students

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Small Districts Tuition Students into Neighboring Districts

Many of the smaller schools in the region have effectively been merged with a neighboring school district in an arrangement where the closing districts pays tuition to send its students to the neighboring town. Technically the school district still exists, it's just not operational.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

▼ Raquette Lake School Tuitions Out all Students

Raquette Lake has been tuitioning out all its students since 2005 but it remains a "non-operating school district"

Read a news story describing what this means here.

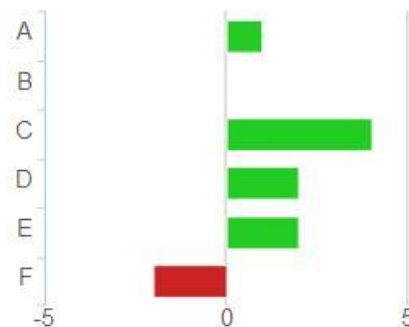
► Catholic School in Ausable Forks closed

► Piseco School District ceases operations

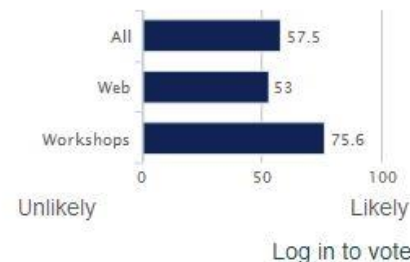
Smaller School Districts Sharing Admin Functions

Many smaller school districts are partnering with neighboring ones to share admin functions, including purchasing, payroll, and other back office tasks. It is not unusual to have one superintendent for multiple school districts. This is a step toward consolidation even though actual mergers have been rejected by voters. This level of integration eliminates some jobs and seems to be working.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

▼ E-town and Westport to Merge Soccer

The two neighboring districts will merge some sports programs.

Read the news story here.

► Shared Services a Topic in Westport Schools

► Two Small Districts Share High School Elective Courses

► Small school rejects merger with partner school

► Lake Placid and Saranac Lake schools study merger

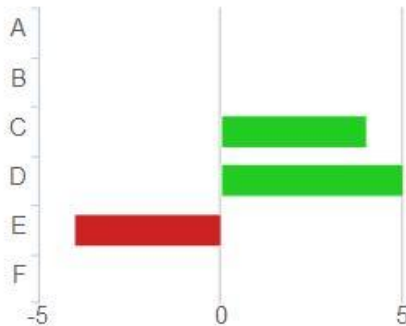
2027 : Education

1 Comments

SuperDistricts Emerge to Solve Rural Public School Needs

Putting more than one school into a resource and administration sharing arrangement has helped meet State and Federal Mandates and reap useful economies of scale. Existing school districts are still maintained but they are grouped into larger SuperDistricts.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

2 Park Districts Vote Down Merger

Two districts in the southern area voted down a merger despite incentives from Albany.

[Read the news story here.](#)

[Log in to add evidence](#)

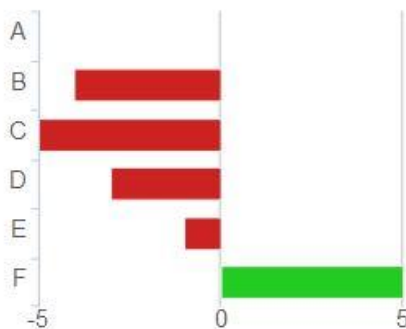
2022 : Economic Dev.

1 Comments

Number of Poor in the Park Grow

The extraction industries left the ADK Park, largely due to competition from other parts of the nation and the world. Former workers in these industries have been largely abandoned, left with no pensions or healthcare and unable or unwilling to leave the Park for improved opportunities. Government payrolls, which had taken up the slack for a long time, also shrink as tax caps take hold. Aging in place, these poor are a large burden on capped government budgets. Total number living below the poverty line has increased over the past decade.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Essex and Hamilton Co. Poverty Rates better than State Average

Census data from 2012 show that the percent of people living below the poverty line was 12.4% in Essex and 8.8% in Hamilton Counties. The State average was 14.9%.

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Global Foundry's Growth Brings New Visitors and Residents

The Global Foundries project brought about 2000 highly educated workers and their families to the Saratoga area. Additional families arrived with all the sub-suppliers needed by this facility. This moved the economic center of gravity in the Capitol Region well to the north. The result was many first time visitors as well as new seasonal homes and residents northward all along the I-87 corridor. North Creek and Lake George saw the biggest impacts. The plant became operational in 2012 and in full production in 2013.

Evidence

Global Foundries Continues Growth Path

Two big expansion projects are underway, the largest construction projects in the region. About 50% of hiring is local, 50% are people moved into the area.

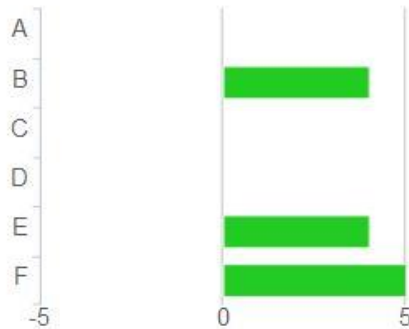
[Read the update here.](#)

\$1.7b Nano Utica Could Boost Southwestern ADK Park

Global Foundries add more capacity for \$2.3 billion

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



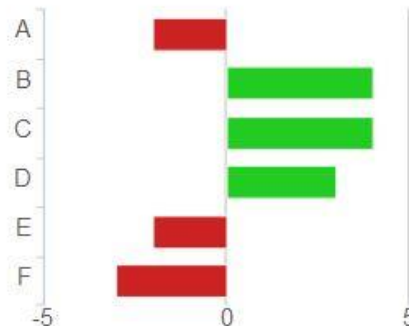
Major Promotion for Jobs, Entrepreneurs and Net-Workers

People just didn't think of coming to the Adirondacks to start a company or open an office. They thought it was a Park. A major promotional campaign is started to tell the rest of North America that the Adirondacks is a great place to live and work. We have broadband and the other infrastructure needed and a great quality of life. The campaign includes money to go give pitches to major employers in NY, Ontario and Quebec.

Evidence

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood

