

The ADK Futures' Vision

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Adirondack Research Consortium

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Today's Panel Outline

- I will give you the highlights of the output from the Adk Futures Project and the CGA vision
- Steven will offer observations about how much of this future is rooted in our deeper past and why this gives us confidence and alignment
- Kate will offer what is going on today to move the Park in this direction

The Endstates

- 2037 A: Wild Park
- 2037 B: A Usable Park
- 2037 C: The Sustainable Life
- 2037 D: Adirondack County
- 2037 E: Post “Big Government” Solutions
- 2037 F: Adirondack State Forest

Desirability Attainability

The Result
for all
Workshops

1	C	87	C	69
2	B	64	B	67
3	D	54	E	62
4	A	44	A	38
5	E	37	F	35
6	F	13	D	29

Normalized Score: 100 = All Ranked First;
0 = All Ranked Last

TotalRankings 515

- Wide Support for C: The Sustainable Life Scenario
- C and B tied for Attainability
- Most Desirable = Most Attainable (a 1st for us)

Desirability Attainability

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- B: A Usable Park
- C: The Sustainable Life
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- E: Post “Big Gov’t” Solutions
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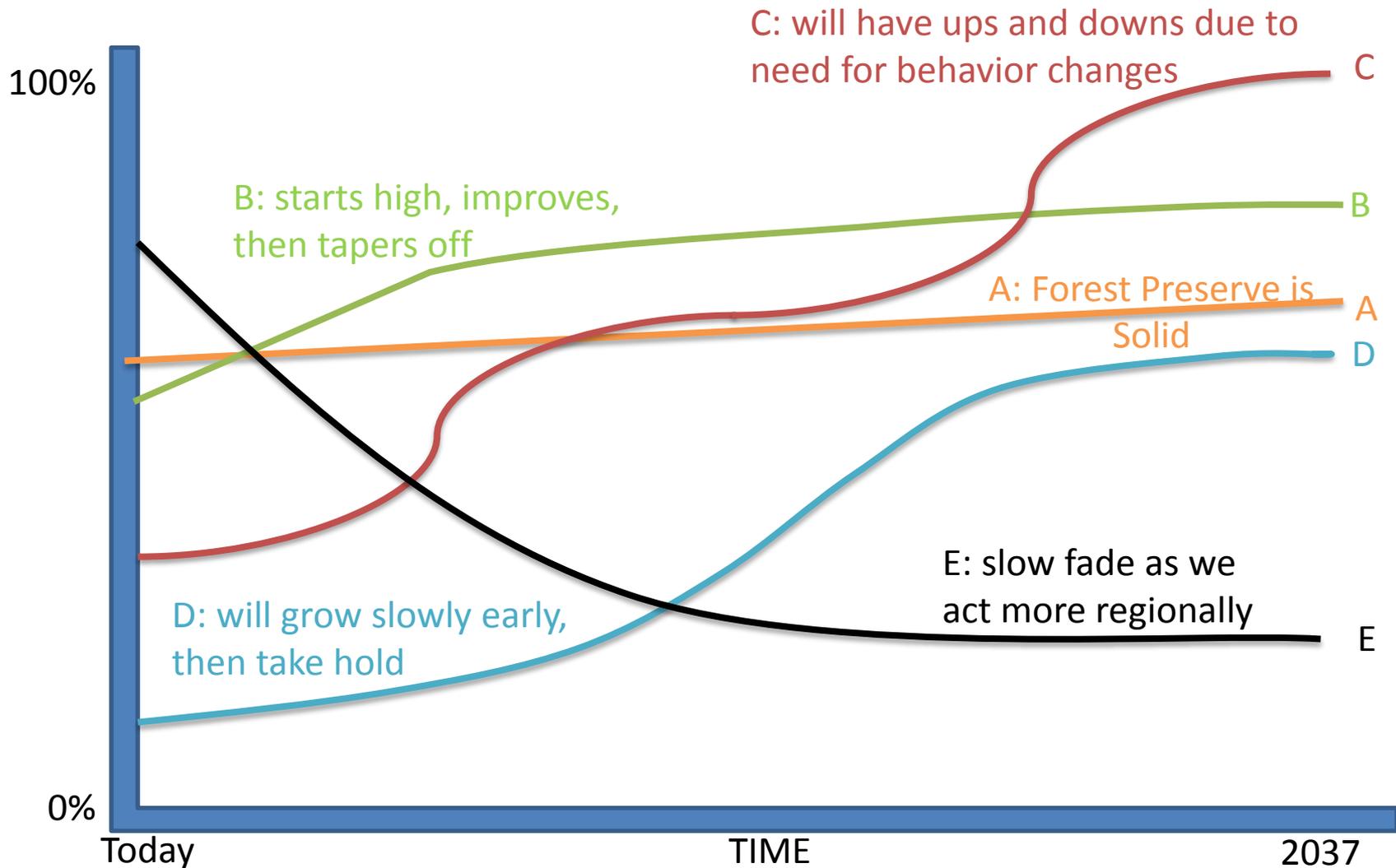
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Endstate Implementation Over Time



The Equation Model

**Adk's
Future**

$$= \frac{\text{C: Sustainable Life} + \text{B: Sustainable Recreational Tourism and Early Retirees}}{\text{A: Wild Forest Preserve}}$$

The Vision Slides

The following slides express the result of the work without the consulting lingo or reference to the methodology

When presented at the annual Common Ground Alliance forum in July 2012, the 220+ participants were given cards to mark for feedback:

Strongly agree:	64%
Agree:	29%
Somewhat agree:	7%
Disagree:	0%
Strongly disagree:	0%

The Vision: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems in Balance

- The mixture of public and private land is our defining feature, our competitive advantage vs other rural regions
- Understanding of the interdependence of our diverse sustainable economy and our environment takes hold
- Balanced, slightly more flexible, regulation preserves this unique landscape, while enhancing the health of our communities
- Apply sustainable forestry to private land and manage recreation to avoid impacts of overuse

Economy: Extending Traditions

- Localize current spending within the Park, building up **local food, energy, forest products**, etc.
 - Biomass, solar energy and new farming/food are key efforts
 - Lower carbon footprint, retain more spending in the Park
 - Rooted in our traditional, self-reliant, culture
- Bring more dollars into the economy by growing **tourism**
 - An integrated public/private recreation plan stitches together **the “Whole Park” experience**
 - Grow eco-, agro- and heritage tourism
 - Activities, arts, services, equipment: more “product” for visitors’ spending
 - We attract a more diverse set of visitors
 - This activity is also rooted in our traditions

Economy: New Sectors

- Bring more dollars into the economy via **telework**
 - There are telework options at many skill levels
 - Leverage the region's colleges and the Capital region's high tech boom
- Embrace **retiring boomers** as an opportunity
 - They don't need a job, they bring their own income
 - They create demand for service jobs
- Tap into **manufacturing** growth at Park edges
 - Global Foundries, Bombardier, Fage Yogurt, Ft Drum, etc.
 - Light high-tech manufacturing inside Blue Line
- Leverage unique historic, cultural and natural features to maintain the character and appeal of each area
 - **Not** one size fits all

Communities: More Vibrant and Open

- The hamlets are as big a draw as the Forest Preserve
 - Trails interconnect hamlets for hikers, bikers, snowmobilers, etc.
 - Culture and heritage of the region are a draw
- Vibrant visual/performing arts scene networked across the Park
 - Arts have a long track record of being a basis for revitalization
- Living in hamlets is cool again: walking, biking, knowing your neighbors
 - Lower carbon lifestyle architecture
- More dynamic, welcoming of newcomers
 - An engaged mix of full-time and part-time residents

Communities: More Attractive

- Main streets throughout the Park are revitalized
- Small, networked, high quality schools give students a strong understanding of this unique place
- Updated Town and Regional zoning features mixed use, clustered development in and near hamlets
- Upgraded infrastructure: healthcare, broadband, cell phone service, water treatment, roads & bridges
- Attract young families and active retirees to settle here
 - Our regional commitment to sustainability is a draw
 - It's ok that our graduates leave for a while, many come back later in life

Government: More Efficient, Rational

- Strikes the right balance between centralization for efficiency and local responsiveness
- Works together, across levels and functions
 - Partners well with community groups and NGOs
 - More collaboration, less town vs. town competition
- Meeting the tax cap requires smart downsizing
 - Sharing becomes the default option
 - Eventually, sharing looks like an unofficial merger
- Uses the internet and modern IT to overcome our large distances and be more data-centric
- State Agencies align their regional structures with each other, reducing coordination costs

Protecting Our Environment

- Maintain strong protections for the Forest Preserve and private land
 - Encourage clustering using mechanisms like Transferrable Development Rights
 - After the Finch deals, the State continues buying easements that keep land productive and/or preserve open space
- Manage the Forest Preserve using science-based stewardship, addressing climate change and protection from invasive insects
- Address unintended constitutional limitations to help our communities
 - E.g allowing buried utilities under roads, allowing county and town roads to adapt to climate change, sewage treatment systems, water
- Community groups, NGOs, lake owner associations and the State collaborate to protect water quality
- Renew the State Land Master Plan (SLMP)
 - Use front-country and back-country concepts, planning for large wilderness complexes instead of small Unit Mgt. Plans
 - Take easement lands into consideration, hamlets, tourism

Big Themes

- Alignment: what we want is what we think we can do
 - Wow, what a nice position to start from!
 - Shared intentions should bring new energy to the region
- Citizen and private enterprise initiative is key
 - Evidenced by the momentum we are seeing
- Aligned public desires attract government help
 - Government operations are better suited to helping an already aligned public