

Rock Slides in the Finger Lakes

The Finger Lakes region in New York State is known for massive rock slides. Sedimentary rock forms large gorge areas. It makes up the rock walls in the Finger Lakes. It is soft and breaks easily. Potential rock falls can cause a danger to human life. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preserve protect people. They maintain barriers to areas that are dangerous. Rock falls are often caused by fractures. The fractures form as a result of swelling, separation of rock layers or geological shift. Natural fractures can run perpendicular to each other which may create an entire block. This rock can fall or be knocked off. Large sections of rock may fall as a result of rain saturated porous limestone, shale or sandstone. This adds weight to the already weakened section of rock. The result is that gravity forces the rock downward. Other causes of rock falls can be ice expansion or plant growth in the fractures of rock. The rock falls could also be caused by extreme drying of the rock.

